

CALL of CRAFTS

ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

Visithma - 'Great Creative Items' is an exhibition organised by the National Crafts Council to promote new products under the Product Development Programme. It is aimed at creating a market for the Sri Lankan crafts industry.

"We developed new items, specially textile and textile fabric paint based items, in this programme. This is done because this is a sector that has been neglected more than any other sector. Therefore we thought we must give a little life to this sector and bring new ideas to the industry. The craftsman and artisans are there. They are willing to try out something new but they need to be inspired. A workshop was organised specially to give new ideas and new designs to them. That is how we got the support of the Daskari Haat Samiti, an NGO in India, engaged in craft development and supporting craftsmen in India. We spoke to them about getting down designers. They supported us and selected a few craftsmen and sent them here," said the National Crafts Council Chairman Buddhi Keerthisena

Two designers were sent by the Daskari Haat Samiti of India to help Sri Lankan artisans brush up their talents and ideas. They are Usha Prajapathi and Shakshi Gambir.

"These two girls worked for one week at the Folk Art Centre Complex, Battaramulla. They worked with 21 of our artisans. Assistant Director Manohari Hewage

spearheaded the concept of this project. We managed to complete the tasks in a week. They introduced new products and made new samples. They worked very hard to reach their goals. Our artisans are producing similar or new samples based on what they have learnt. Two design students from the Moratuwa University took part in this programme," Keerthisena explained.

The products will be exhibited at Visithma, a market oriented exhibition brimming with new ideas. The team is confident that these products will be appreciated by craft lovers.

Visithma will be launched at the Lionel Wendt Gallery on March 19 at 10.30 am. The exhibition will continue till March 21.

Pictures by Sarath Peiris



National Crafts Council Chairman Buddhi Keerthisena



Michelle Therese Atelier unveils yet another sophisticated collection with a muted yet fun colour palette bursting with summer's energy. Focusing on our tropical climate, Atelier based out of Sri Lanka, has created some essential pieces using her trademark detailing, that gets you from one day time affair to another more sophisticated evening soiree.

Inspired by a laid back and floaty silhouette, Atelier has worked with pure silks, to produce yet again a sensational collection that is now available at Casa Colombo, Colombo 04. Follow the designer and her latest collections by joining her official fan page on Facebook.

ATELIER'S SUMMER SILKS



Michelle Therese Atelier



Pottery painting



Working on a design



Sierra Mr Sri Lanka Suranga Jayakody and Eclips Miss Sri Lanka Tammy Roberts. Picture by Nissanka Wijeratne

Tammy Roberts and Suranga Jayakody bagged first place at the Eclips Miss Sri Lanka and Sierra Mr Sri Lanka 2012 - 13 competition presented by Studio 9 at Galle Face Hotel on March 10.

Held for the 12th consecutive year the event saw contestants from the Northern, Western, Southern, Central, and North Western province competing for the titles. Miss Earth 2011 Ecuadorian-born Olga Mercedes Alava Vargas graced the event.

Tammy hails from the Northern province and will represent Sri Lanka at the Model of the World competition while

Central province's Suranga will fly to the Dominican Republic in April to take part in the Mr Handsome International competition.

The Chief Guest of the event was Kandy Mayor Mahendra Ratwatte while the Guest of Honour was Sunday Observer Editor Dinesh Weerawansa.

TAMMY and SURANGA come up trumps