

SENAKA SENANAYAKE, SRI LANKA'S LEADING ARTIST, HEADS FOR LONDON'S GROSVENOR GALLERY WITH AN EXHIBITION THAT SPOTLIGHTS VANISHING RAIN FORESTS

Grosvenor Gallery will be exhibiting the work of **Senaka Senanayake** (b.1951) in London from the **15 – 30 June 2017**. The exhibition, titled **Dharmachakra (Wheel of Life)** will open with a VIP private view on Wednesday 14 June and will feature new paintings by the artist, on his most sought after theme; **the rainforest**.

Senaka is Sri Lanka's foremost artist. Starting out as a child prodigy – his first exhibition in America was when he was just nine years old – recently turned his attention to the flora and fauna of the rain-forest.

He has held over a hundred exhibitions in over 18 countries spanning the five continents. His work can be found in the White House, the UN building in New York, in museums, private collections and corporate headquarters of multinationals around the world. The painting in the White House depicts a seascape in Sri Lanka and was given by the Government of Sri Lanka to President Lyndon Johnson. The United Nations painting depicting rice cultivation was a commission by the UN architect Abel Sorensen.

Senaka Senanayake is a painter of our vanishing environment, blending vibrant colours with enhanced intensity that captures the viewer's attention immediately. He is one of those painters whose work is his signature, evident as his from 100 yards away.

Charles Moore of the Grosvenor Gallery, now at 35 Bury Street, London, says: *"Senaka has rightly been described as 'nature's evangelist'. His native Sri Lanka is his muse and his canvasses capture the vibrancy of his environment – brightly coloured parrots, insects, frogs, in a jungle teeming with colour and movement.*

"His work is as much a lament as a love song to a vanishing world. Senaka's painterly language speaks to us about tolerance, co-existence, beauty and balance, and warns us about what we are on the verge of losing, our priceless birth-right, the wonders of the natural world which comes to its most magnificent fruition in the world's rain forests."

Speaking about his passion for the rain forest Senaka says: *"About fifteen years ago my cousin, an environmentalist living in Ecuador visited us in Colombo and inspired me to paint images of Sri Lankan fauna and flora. I opted to paint the positive aspects of the rain forest rather than the destruction of it. As an artist I felt I could use my medium to highlight the need to preserve the remaining rain forests of Sri where we have lost about 70% of this spectacular and irreplaceable environment."*

Grosvenor Gallery



Top: *Rainforest*, 2017, 36 x 60in.

L-R: *Birds of Paradise*, 2016, 36 x 24 in. / *Dark Lotus*, 2016, 48 x 48in.

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Gallery Timings: Mon – Fri: 10 am – 6 pm
Saturday 12 – 4pm (By appointment in advance only), Sundays closed