

## **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DEVELOPING A PAINTING MUSEUM IN SRI LANKA**

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Museums are important and complicated institutions, both conceptually and practically. There are various types of museums in the world as well as in Sri Lanka, among them, Art/Painting museums are one leading variety. This research paper describes the potential and significance of developing a museum related to paintings in Sri Lanka. Further, its importance as an educational centre and as a tourist attraction will also be described through this research. To carry out this study, field research and library survey methods were used. Sri Lanka has a long, rich history of paintings ranging from rock art to contemporary art. Dambulla Painting Museum is the only painting museum which exhibits the history of paintings in Sri Lanka. Apart from that, Painting Gallery of the National Museum of Colombo, Sigiriya Museum, National Art Gallery, Lionel Wendt Art Gallery, Sapumal Foundation and Art Gallery of Gangarama Temple at Colombo also exhibits Sri Lankan Paintings. However, Sri Lanka still lacks a single institution which displays the complete painting history of the island. (Through this study can be suggested that either a completely new painting museum covering the all periods of painting or develop the existing museum at Dambulla to serve the purpose by using replicas of selected paintings which are related to various periods and various traditions of Sri Lankan Painting history). Considering the results of this research one/we could conclude that, it is important to have one place where the complete painting history can be observed and reviewed.