

CRAFTS RESEARCH FORUM 2026

International Conference and Exhibitions on Craft Heritage Research

Theme: Preservation of Craft Traditions: Bridging Heritage, Innovation and Community
(Preserving Crafts Heritage through Research, Innovation and Community Collaboration)

Date: 30 October 2026

Venue: University of the Visual and Performing Arts (UVPA), Sri Lanka

Tagline: Preserving Crafts Heritage through Research, Innovation and Community Collaboration

Introduction

The Crafts Research Forum 2026 is an international conference and exhibition platform dedicated to advancing research, practice, innovation, and community engagement in the field of crafts and cultural heritage. The forum aims to bring together researchers, academics, artisans, designers, artists, policy makers, community practitioners, and cultural institutions to explore the evolving role of crafts in contemporary society.

The event will feature academic presentations, practice-based research showcases, exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops, and public engagement activities that celebrate and strengthen Sri Lanka's craft heritage while fostering global dialogue and collaboration.

Objectives

The forum seeks to:

- Promote research on traditional and contemporary craft practices.
- Encourage documentation and preservation of craft heritage.
- Foster innovation within traditional craft sectors.
- Strengthen links between crafts, communities, and cultural identity.
- Support interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers and practitioners.
- Create opportunities for knowledge exchange and public engagement.

Forum Activities

The forum will include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Craft Exhibitions | - Audio-Visual Presentations |
| - Live Craft Demonstrations | - Documentary Film Screenings |
| - Workshops | - Community Engagement Activities |
| - Research Paper Presentations | - Networking Sessions |

Thematic Tracks

Submissions are invited under the following thematic areas:

1. Traditional Crafts and Contemporary Adaptation- Exploring how traditional crafts evolve and adapt to modern contexts.
2. Practice-Based Craft Research - Research generated through creative practice and craft-making processes.
3. Craft, Community and Cultural Identity - The role of crafts in shaping identities, communities, and cultural continuity.
4. Craft Documentation and Digital Preservation - Documentation methods, archives, digitization, and technological applications in preserving craft heritage.
5. Sustainability and Creative Economy - Crafts as drivers of sustainable development, livelihoods, and cultural industries.
6. Interdisciplinary and Trans disciplinary Practices - Collaborative approaches integrating crafts with diverse academic and professional fields.

Submission Categories

Participants may submit either an **abstract** or **proposals** under the following categories:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Research Papers | - Exhibitions and Installations |
| - Practice-Based Research Projects | - Community Practice Case Studies |
| - Craft Demonstrations | - Audio-Visual Presentations |
| - Workshops | - Documentary Film Screenings |

Submission Modes

Participants are required to submit their abstracts or preliminary proposals (150–300 words) in both Word and PDF formats on or before the specified deadline for review. Upon receiving the acceptance notification, authors should submit the full extended proposal or final abstract in accordance with the submission guidelines.

1.Extended Abstract:

1. Research paper Submission

Target Participants: Researchers, academics, postgraduate students, and undergraduate students.

Requirements:

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| - Title | - Author(s) and affiliation |
|---------|-----------------------------|

- Background/Problem Statement
- Objectives
- Methodology

- Key Findings or Expected Outcomes
- Keywords (3–5)

Length: 1000–1500 words

Purpose: Academic research papers and conceptual studies.

2. Structured Presentation

Target Participants: Craft practitioners, artisans, designers, and community researchers.

Requirements:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Title of Presentation | - Materials Used |
| - Background | - Outcomes |
| - Aim(s) | - Relevance to Craft Preservation |
| - Objectives | - Images (Optional) |
| - Methodology/Process | |

Length: 1000–1500 words

Purpose: Presentations that may not follow a conventional academic paper format.

3. Practice-Based Research Submission

Target Participants: Artists, designers, craft practitioners, and creative researchers.

Requirements:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Project Title | - Documentation of Process |
| - Concept Note | - Photographs/Sketches/Prototypes |
| - Research Question | - Reflective Statement |
| - Practice Methodology | |

Length: 1000–1500 words plus visual documentation.

Purpose: Creative work presented as research.

2. Proposal:

1. Exhibition Proposal

Target Participants: Individual artists, craft groups, and institutions.

Requirements:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Exhibition Title | - Technical Requirements |
| - Concept Statement | - Images of Works |
| - Description of Exhibits | - Artist Profile |

Purpose: Craft exhibitions, installations, and heritage displays.

2. Workshop Proposal

Target Participants: Master artisans, educators, and researchers.

Requirements:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Workshop Title | - Target Audience |
| - Learning Objectives | - Duration |
| - Workshop Format | - Material Requirements |

Purpose: Hands-on learning and knowledge-sharing activities.

3. Demonstration Proposal

Target Participants: Traditional craft practitioners.

Requirements:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Craft Tradition Represented | - Equipment/Material Requirements |
| - Demonstration Description | - Duration |
| - Cultural Significance | |

Purpose: Live demonstrations of traditional craft techniques and knowledge systems.

Activity and Date

Call for Papers Launch	23 June 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	25 July 2026
Notification of Acceptance	01 September 2026
Final Submission Deadline	30 September 2026
Conference & Open Day	30 October 2026

Who Can Participate

The forum welcomes:

- Researchers
- Academics
- Students
- Artisans
- Designers
- Artists
- Museum Professionals
- Cultural Officers
- Community Organizations
- Independent Researchers
- Policy Makers
- Entrepreneurs

Organizers

National Crafts Council – Sri Lanka

In collaboration with

Faculty of Visual Arts

University of the Visual and Performing Arts (UVPA), Sri Lanka

Submission Requirements

Extended Abstract: 1000–1500 words

All submissions should clearly demonstrate relevance to craft heritage, preservation, innovation, sustainability, or community engagement.

Contact Information

Conference Website

Email : craftsforum2026@gmail.com (password given to Mr.Riyas)

Telephone

Whatssapp-

Facebook

“Join us in preserving, documenting, researching, and reimagining craft heritage for future generations.”

Example-Abstract

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