

Textile Designer And Technologist Honored

Sri Lankan Textile Designer and Chartered Textile Technologist Chandramani Thenuwara was presented with The Institute Medal 2019 for Design at the 109th AGM and Award Ceremony of the Textile Institute of United Kingdom. This is the first time that a Sri Lankan has won this award.



Chandramani Thenuwara, Textile Designer and Technologist, with the esteemed award – The Institute Medal for Design.



(L-R): Helen Rowe, Chairman, Textile Institute, UK; Chandramani Thenuwara; and Prof Rohana U Kuruppu, Chairman, Textile Institute, Sri Lanka Section.

The award is for professional designers/ group of designers who have devoted themselves to and made substantial contributions in the field of textile design and design management. The medal was presented to Sri Lankan designer Chandramani Thenuwara by Helen Rowe, Chairman, Textile Institute, UK, in the presence of Prof Rohana Kuruppu, Chairman, Textile Institute – Sri Lanka Section in a ceremony held at The Lowry, Salford Quays, Manchester, UK. She was proposed and nominated for the award by Prof Rohana Kuruppu, Chairman, Textile Institute – Sri Lanka Section, FTI CText and the Head of Brandix College, Ratmalana. A Textile

Designer and Technologist by profession, Chandramani Thenuwara was the first Sri Lankan woman to qualify as a Chartered Textile Technologist. She went on to become the first Sri Lankan woman Fellow of The Textile Institute UK. She has been felicitated by the Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa, in appreciation of her lifetime contribution towards the field of Design.



She used her artistic talents, sharpened as a student of Cora Abraham, among the rural artisans of Sri Lanka. She empowered a large number of weavers with her creativity. Upon being asked why she chose the Handloom industry, she stated, “Hand-weaving let me experiment. I worked in a Government Design Center, which was the ideal place for experimenting, and the weavers I worked with were happy to weave my designs. I chose hand-weaving because it accommodated the true freedom of expression, which is essential in creative work.” For her dedication to the local Handloom industry, she was presented a national award by the Department of Textile Industries for ‘Immeasurable Service to the Handloom industry in Design and Creativity.’ Chandramani Thenuwara spoke on receiving The Institute Medal 2019 for Design: “I am a designer, not a weaver. My designs would have remained on paper without the hand-weaving artisans of Sri Lanka. This is their award as well because they skillfully translated my work into fabric throughout my career.”