



University
of Victoria



Women as Patrons of Religious Art in Sri Lanka: Some Social Implications

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Thursday, October 31

5:00-6:00 p.m.

David Turpin Building, Room A110

The Garakmedilla temple in the Kandy district of Sri Lanka is a living example of active female participation in the expression of religious faith and contribution to art. The participation of females from different social strata confirms their economic strength and relative religious freedom, as well as the relative tolerance of female participation at religious sites by clergy. Yet the site also illustrates the hierarchical social order present at sacred spaces even in the midst of declining feudalism.

Dulma Karunaratna is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. She is a passionate career archaeologist with a special interest in the social archaeology of gender.

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