

**A REPORT
ON**



**THE WORLD OF ROCK ART EXHIBITION
AT
NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART, BENGALURU**

(3RD DECEMBER, 2013 TO 3RD JANUARY, 2014)

After successful organisation of the 'World of Rock Art' exhibitions at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, (5th to 28th March, 2013) then in Srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra (SSK), Guwahati (12th April to 3rd May, 2013), at Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar (18th May to 23rd June, 2013), at Pondicherry University, Puducherry (25th July to 25th August, 2013), the exhibition was now hosted at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru in collaboration with NGMA and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Bangalore Circle. It will remain open for public from 3rd December, 2013 to 3rd January, 2014.

The exhibition at NGMA was inaugurated by internationally renowned scholar Dr. A. Sundara, Retd. Professor, Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, Karnatak University, Dharwad. Shri Pravin Srivastava (IAS), Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi was the Chairperson of the inaugural function on 3rd December, 2013. As a part of the event, two special lectures on 'Rock Art of Southern India: Neolithic to Early Historical' and 'Southern India: Upper Palaeolithic to Mesolithic' by Prof. A. Sundara and Prof. Ravi Korisettar (Dr. D.C. Pavate Professor of Art and Archaeology, Karnatak University, Dharwad) were organised on 3rd and 4th December, 2013 respectively. A special workshop for school students titled "impression" was also organised on 4th December, 2013. The welcome address in the inaugural function was given by Shri K.G. Kumar, Director, NGMA, Bengaluru. Introduction to event was given by Dr. B. L. Malla and vote of thanks by Shri N. Nambirajan, Superintending Archaeologist, Bangalore Circle.

The exhibition, special lectures and children workshop at NGMA were well received and got a very positive response from both the print and electronic media. "Commenting on the vandalism of the arts, archaeological experts like A. Sundara and Shri Pravin Srivastava, Director General, ASI, felt the need to educate people on rock art so that they are preserved for posterity" (*Times of India*, 4th December, 2013). Through this event, we have been able, to a great extent, to propagate and highlight the activities of the IGNSA, especially about the important one and the objective of the present rock art project. How did humankind portray its earliest expressions? A visit to the exhibition the World of Rock Art offers some answers. The exhibition unveils the fascinating saga of human endeavor to translate aesthetic sensitivity into reality (*Time of India*, 4th December, 2013).

The steps taken by the IGNSA to reach out at a large scale for creating general awareness about the importance of rock art and in the field of art and cultural studies was highly appreciated by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries and also by the students, scholars and general masses.

We also took this opportunity to discuss with Prof. A. Sundara and Prof. Ravi Korisettar regarding taking up documentation, research and publication on rock art of the area (Karnataka). They showed their keen interest in our project and wanted to be activity associated with it. They would be sending proposals to us very shortly in this regard.