The World of Rock Art Exhibition

At
Departmental Museum of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology
Panjab University, Chandigarh
(10th August - 10th September, 2016)
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(Departmental Museum of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology)
Panjab University, Chandigarh

A Report

As a precursor to the exhibition, a press conference was held by the organizers of the event on 09th August, 2016 at the Library, Dept. of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The media persons were briefed about the objectives of IGNCA in organizing the exhibition and also about the significance of this ignored field of rock art as well as of its studies and its importance for posterity, especially the role the media has to play in this regard. Almost all the major newspapers highlighted the significance of the event which resulted in huge attendance at the exhibition, Children Workshops and at the Special Lectures. The electronic media also highlighted the importance of the event (for details, visit www.ignca.nic.in)

The exhibition at Panjab University, Chandigarh, was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri. Vijai Vardhan (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of Haryana on 10th August, 2016 and the inaugural ceremony was chaired by Prof. Arun Kumar Grover, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The welcome address in the inaugural function was given by Ms. Paru Bal Sidhu, Chairperson, Dept. of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Introduction to the exhibition was given by Dr. B.L. Malla, Project Director, IGNCA, New Delhi. The Chief Guest, Shri. Vijai Vardhan in his speech, appreciated the IGNCA’s initiative in documenting rock art sites across India and disseminating its knowledge through rock art exhibitions all over the country. Describing the rock art as the major component of art history, he stressed on the importance of history for understanding the contemporary world. Analysing the study of rock art in the Indian context, Sh. Vardhan underlined the need of giving more support to rock art conservation. In addition, he emphasized on taking measures to preserve such sites as it will help the younger generation in understanding the past better. Prof. Arun
Kumar Grover, addressing on the occasion, highly appreciated the rock art exhibition organized by IGNCA. He emphasized on the holistic study of the past, of which the rock art forms an essential component. At last, he said that more such exhibitions be organized so that students as well as general public at large get to know about the global rock art heritage. Concluding the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Renu Thakur, Associate Professor, Dept. of A.I.H.C & A gave the vote of thanks.
The present exposition ‘The World of Rock Art’ is culled out from the Exhibition on Rock Art organised during the International Rock Art Conference, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi from 6th December, 2012 to 25th January, 2013. After getting a very positive feedback from a cross section of the society comprising; scholars, media persons, public servants and general public, it was decided to take the exhibition to other parts of the country as circulating/mobile exhibition to spread awareness among school children, college and university students and general public at large.

For the present exhibition, exhibits are chosen from five continents of the world: Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. A representative collection of the significant and important traditions are displayed continent wise. This exhibition creates, for the viewer, a degree of experiential contact with prehistoric art. It provides the basis for entering into the changing aspects of the living arts of man. It is believed that man’s awareness of the world around came through his primeval sense of sight and sound. These two senses have stimulated artists’ expressions; visual and aural in the prehistoric past as well as in the contemporary cultures. The present exhibition also showcases the ‘living art traditions’ of three communities - the Lanjia-Sauras of Odisha, the Rathwa-Bhils of Gujarat and the Warlis of Maharashtra, just to give a glimpse of continuity of artistic traditions in Indian context.

As a part of the event, two painting workshops for school children titled ‘Impressions’ were organized on 10th and 11th August, 2016 at the Departmental Museum of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh where almost 300 students from various schools of Chandigarh and its surrounding areas actively participated. A special lecture on the ‘Prehistory of the Siwalik Ranges of Punjab’ by Dr. Mukesh Singh was organized on 10th August at Room# 1, in the Dept. of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh. On the following day another special lecture by Dr. Paru Bal Sidhu, titled ‘An analysis of Prehistoric Indian Rock Art’ was organized at the same venue. Dr. Renu Thakur, Associate Professor, Dept. of A.I.H.C & A, Panjab University, Chandigarh also gave a lecture titled ‘A Prehistoric Art: An Appraisal’. Both the special lectures saw a huge attendance of university students, scholars and rock art enthusiasts.

All the events were well received by the people, students and scholar community. The exhibition, Special Lectures and Children Workshops were highly appreciated and got a very positive response from both print and the electronic media. For instance, the Chief Guest on the occasion Sh. Vijai Vardhan in his address stressed “to cherish and protect the cultural gift from our ancestors” (Times of India, 10.08.2016).
As per the recent update received from Panjab University, Chandigarh, people in large numbers are visiting the exhibition every day. Through this event, we have been able, to a large extent, to propagate and highlight the activities of the IGNCA, especially about the importance and the objectives of the present Rock Art Project. How did humankind portray its earliest expressions? A visit to the exhibition, The World of Rock Art at Panjab University, Chandigarh offers some answers.
Formal Inaugural Ceremony

Dr. Malla introducing the exhibition.

Dr. Renu Thakur proposing the vote of thanks
Dr. Mukesh Singh during his special lecture at the deptt. of A.I.H.C & A.
Dr. Paru Bal Sidhu (above) and Dr. Renu Thakur delivering their respective special lectures.
Children’s Workshop

Schoolchildren at their creative best during the children’s workshop.
Press Coverage

PU to host month-long exhibition on pre-historic rock art from today

The exhibition is a part of IGCA's national project on rock art which gives top priority to creating general awareness for school children, college and university students and general public about the first creative art of humankind. Rock art is considered as the mother of all arts and also an universal form of art.

"From time immemorial, the early man started to record his world around him and his activities for the life sustenance and to bring forth his propensities to fourish. He lived in natural caves and shelters and decorated with paintings and engravings the subject matters he could see in nature and life around him. This prehistoric art comes to signify the underlying philosophies and worldviews of the ancient people, and tells us about the soul of the community, its thoughts, beliefs and emotions. These records of high maturity, as estimated by scholars, perhaps go back to 40,000 years back from today," said IGCA Project Director Dr B L Mallick.

Rock art is one of the greatest surviving art treasures. It is a vital archaeological source to study and analyse the cognitive evolution of the human intellect across the world.

"Rock art was started in an era when their was no script. It was made by people living in tribal and forest areas on rock shelters. Going by study, the art done in those times were based on the animals they use to hunt. Even the celebrations in the form of community dance can be seen on some of rocks. Anything and everything which the man was doing as an activity or thought about has been carved out very nicely in the caves and the rocks. The paintings that were made during those times were from natural colors for example plants were used to provide the green color and iron was used to provide red color," said Dr Perumalselvan, head of department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology. IGCA under its progamme Adi Divyasangama (primal vision of man) has initiated a field documentation at national level for preserving the rock art sites and data.

Rock art, which is an emerging discipline in India, has different techniques for various countries in which they are found.

"Each country where the rock art was done had its own distinguished style and technique. In the European art form, more animals and anthropological were seen. However, in India, the art varied according to the regions like east Orissa had carving and paintings. The north or the coastal had engravings while the central India had typical paintings. On a whole, the Indian rock art was widely based on social context," added Mallick.

As a part of the outreach programme, IGCA is going to organise different programmes for capacity building like orientation workshops for researchers and university students.

The present exhibition on the world of rock art displays thematic universality of this art form, to which both tangible and intangible aspects of the heritage are associated, he added.

The formal inauguration ceremony of the event would be held on August 10 at 11 am.
ROCK BY ROCK, A STORY OF TIME IN STONE

Exhibition aims to introduce residents to rock art & its varied expressions; workshops held for students

PARSIL CHANDIGARH AUGUST 11

FROM THE mountains of Himalayan Piedmont to the caves of France — each tell a story through art. At the World of Rock Art, an exhibition, which was inaugurated on Wednesday, images of an increasingly humanised world take the visitors back in time, make them reimagine man and man in the thought that how art, time and nature intertwined to create a common fabric. Art and the environment are very much intertwined, the thought that has been encompassed in our lives, our evolution. This is precisely what one witnesses at The World of Rock Art Exhibition, organized by Indus Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in collaboration with the Department of Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Chandigarh.

The exhibition is a celebration of rock art, which has been a significant part of human history for thousands of years. Rock art is a form of visual expression that has been used by humans to communicate, record events, and express cultural values. It is a testament to the fact that art has been an integral part of human history and culture for millennia.

The exhibition features a wide range of rock art from different parts of the world, including Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see a variety of rock art styles and techniques, including petroglyphs, paintings, and engravings.

The exhibition is open to the public and is being held at Indus Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in Chandigarh. It is a great opportunity for visitors to learn more about the history and cultural significance of rock art.

In summary, the World of Rock Art Exhibition is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the history and cultural significance of rock art. The exhibition features a wide range of rock art from different parts of the world, and it is open to the public. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see a variety of rock art styles and techniques, including petroglyphs, paintings, and engravings. It is a testament to the fact that art has been an integral part of human history and culture for millennia.
सिटी ब्यूटीफुल में पहली बार 'द वर्ल्ड ऑफ रॉक आर्ट' प्रदर्शनी

अमर उजाला बुधवार

पिंटु ने 'द वर्ल्ड ऑफ रॉक आर्ट' प्रदर्शनी के द्वारा सार्वजनिक यूनिवर्स को दिखाया आपकी प्रेरणा। राजस्थान के एक वर्चस्व लोगों की रूपरेखा को वास्तविक रूप से देखने के लिए उन्होंने नए रूपों में धीमे धीमे पेंटिंग की। पिंटु के एक वर्चस्व अधिकारियों की आयोजना के अंतर्गत यह प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन किया गया।

प्रदर्शनी का अन्तर्गत मंच पर प्रदर्शनी के अनुरूप, एक वर्चस्व अधिकारियों की आयोजना के अंतर्गत यह प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन किया गया। प्रदर्शनी के अनुरूप, एक वर्चस्व अधिकारियों की आयोजना के अंतर्गत यह प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन किया गया।

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The present exhibition will remain open for public till 10th September, 2016.

Team Rock Art
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