

IT'S HAPPENING



MONA

Pretty similar stick drawings of people and animals; hunting, war and the environs is what ties rock art across continents. Asia, Europe, Africa, America, Australia — the early man took to stone to express his world view. And this has been preserved in its raw form.

This is precisely what one witnesses at The World of Rock Art Exhibition, organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in collaboration with Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Panjab University, opened to rousing response on Wednesday. While students of Government Model Senior Secondary School saw and painted, there were others art enthusiasts and scholars who admired the exhibits.

Divided neatly into sections, the exhibition takes one back to times gone by. "Not all art is pretty, but expression certainly is," remarks Subhash Shorey, artist who also along with the kids enjoyed painting at the venue. Rock art — engravings on stone sometimes with other stones or colour — might not look beauti-

Rock solid

Art from the stone age comes to life in an exhibition on rock art organised at the Panjab University

Photographs on display at the exhibition →



PHOTOS: NITIN MITTAL

The photographs of horse figurines on Lascaux cave, Dordogne, France, bear resemblance to the ones of rock art of Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. "This takes us back to our origins; reflects that in an era when we stand divided in the name of nations and religion, these art forms are important," says Paru Bal Sidhu, chairperson, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology.

Also dotting the walls are replicas and how these traditions have survived through the ages. Tribal Art gallery brings one face to face with

people who have continued the bond, like the Warli in Maharashtra. "An emerging discipline that rock art is, we take immense pleasure taking it to school student, scholars and people. The response has been overwhelming," shares BL Mal-

la, project director, Rock Art Department, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

(On till September 10, 2016, at the museum of Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Panjab University)

mona@tribunemail.com