



The World of Rock Art Exhibition
at
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda,
Vadodara, Gujarat
29th October – 24th November, 2018



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
NEW DELHI





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A Report

After the successful organization of ‘**The World of Rock Art**’ exhibitions at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (5th to 8th 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), at National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru (3rd December 2013 to 3rd January 2014), at Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS), Tripunithura, Kerala (28th November to 28th December, 2014), at Sangeetha Mahal Palace Complex, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu (6th May to 21st June, 2015), at ASI, Puratattva Bhavan, Nagpur (19th Nov-31st December, 2015), at Regional Science City, Lucknow (26th April to 24th May, 2016), at Himachal State Museum, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (15th June to 24th July, 2016), at the Departmental Museum of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University, Chandigarh (10th August to 10th September, 2016) at Avritti Bhavan, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal (17th February to 15th March, 2017), at Mahadevi Kanya Pathshala (MKP College), Dehradun (24th February to 27th March, 2016), at Vinoba Bave University, Hazaribag (13th March – 30th April, 2018) and at Bihar Museum, Patna (18th August – 14th April, 2018). The exhibition is now hosted at Parmanand Hall, Faculty of Arts, The Mharaja Sayajirao University of

Baroda, Vadodara, from 29th October – 24th Novemebr, 2018. An exhibition on ‘Indian Rock Art’ was also organized by IGNCA in the last week of August, 2014 at the World Rock Art Museum, Yinchuan, China. It remained open for the public till September, 2015. In February, 2016 IGNCA organised an exhibition-cum-workshop on ‘India-China Rock Art’ from 24th February to 27th March, 2016.

The World of Rock Art Exhibition at Parmanand Hall was inaugurated by Prof. K Krishnan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, The MS University of Baroda on 29th October, 2018 and the inaugural ceremony was chaired by Prof. P. Ajitprasad, Head, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, The MS University of Baroda. The welcome address of the function was given by Prof. Ajitprasad, in his speech he welcomed all guests and introduced them to audience. Prof. Ajitprasad expressed his happiness to be part of this exhibition because such an exhibition happened first time in western part of the country and also first time in the university. An introduction to the exhibition was given by Prof. V. H. Sonawane, Programme Advisory Committee Member of Adi Drishya Department in the absence of Dr. B. L. Malla, Project Director of Adi Drishya Department. Prof. K. Krishnan in his inaugural speech highlighted the role played by the Archaeology Department of MS University in rock art studies of western India and also discovery of some sites in Gujarat state. He also appreciated the efforts taken by IGNCA in documenting and studying rock art all over India and also awareness programmes including mobile exhibitions and children’s workshop. The programme was concluded with vote of thanks by S. Pratapchandran, Associate Professor of the Department.

(for details, visit www.ignca.nic.in).

Inauguration of the exhibition



Inaugural speech by
Prof. K. Krishnan, Dean,
Faculty of Arts, The MS
University of Baroda



Inauguration of the exhibition by Prof. K. Krishnan

Lamp Lighting



The present exhibition ‘**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 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.

The present exhibition is 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 in continent wise. This exhibition is curate in two sections; one is displaying the rock art of the five continents and the other section has exhibits displaying rock art of India. This exhibition creates, for the viewer, a degree of experiential contact with rock 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 ancient 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.

The Rock art of India Gallery has been displayed with rock art from all parts of the country. In contrast, the petroglyphs of Ladakh and the rock paintings of Sonbhadra and Mirzapur finds a prominent place in the rock art of North India section, the paintings from world renowned rock art site Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh and geometrical patterns from Chattisgarh are the highlights of the Central India section. Human and animal figures from Assam in the Northeast section and the rock art from Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand in the Rock Art of Eastern India section have been displayed elaborately. The rock paintings of Bundi in Rajasthan and rock art of Gujarat are the major attractions in the Rock art of Western India section while the petroglyphs of Wayanad in Kerala and paintings of animals and aquatic fauna from Pandavalugutta, Andhra Pradesh are exhibited in the Rock art of South India section.

The World Rock art gallery has been elaborately exhibited with rock arts from all the five continents of the world. Whereas the cave paintings of Altamira in Spain and Chauvet and Lascaux caves in France are displayed aesthetically in the Rock art of Europe section, the aboriginal art of Pilbara and rock art of Kakadu National Park finds a place in the Rock art of Australia section. Rock arts of India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia etc. are exhibited prominently in the Rock art of Asia section whereas the San and Bushman rock art are the main attraction in the Rock art of Africa section. The Rock art of America section has been displayed with rock arts from Utah, Nevada and Grand canyon etc.

Rock art tradition in the state of Gujarat was brought to light in the seventies of the last century. Most of the rock art sites are situated in the eastern periphery of the state and forming a kind of continuity from Rajasthan in the north and Madhya Pradesh in the south. Rock art sites are reported from the sites of Tarsang (Panchmahal), Idar (Sabarkantha), Chamardi (Bhavnagar)

etc. The site Tarsang contains line drawings of deer, hunting scenes, an animal probably a rhino as well as numerous geometric signs and floral designs. Idar is another rich cluster of rock arts containing about thirty painted rock shelters depicting a variety of rock painting both of Prehistoric and historic periods. Noteworthy paintings of the site are stupas and a panel showing a horse rider carrying spear in one hand and raised other hand. A rock face has characters of *Sankha* script drawn with thick red bands is discovered from the site Laloda near Idar. Sapawada rock shelter near Idar contains the depiction of peacocks, goats and cattle with red colour; Brahmi script is also reported from the site. Chamardi site in Bhavnagar district which has interesting painting of a sail boat. Along the boats, human figures as sailors, rudder, masts, flags and anchors are also well depicted.

The depictions of stick shaped figures of the painted humans and hunting scenes is the most familiar style of the rock arts in Gujarat. Absence of palm prints and cupules are specific feature of Gujarat rock art. The depiction of rhino at Tarsang and finding of a shoulder blade from Langhnaj excavation can be taken to further establish the contemporaneous of the painting. These rock shelters kept attracting traders and pilgrim from the second half of the first millennium of the Christian Era.

As a part of the event, painting workshops for school children titled '*Impressions*' were organized on 30th October, 2018 at Parmanad Hall, Faculty of Arts, where almost 100 students from Urmi School, Sama, Vadodara actively participated. Special lectures on 'Western Indian Art' by Prof. Deepak Kannal (Former Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, The MS University of Baroda) was organized on 29th October, 2018 and 'Rock Art of Western India' by Prof. V.H. Sonawane (Former HoD, Dept. of Archaeology and Ancient History, Faculty of Arts, The MS University of Baroda) was organized on 30th October, 2018 at Maharshi Aurobindo Hall.

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.

As per the recent update received from The MS University of Baroda, 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.

Snaps from Inaugural Ceremony



Welcome speech by Prof. P. Ajitprasad



Introduction of the Exhibition by Prof. V.H. Sonawane



Vote of thanks by S. Pratapchandran

Guests watching the exhibits



Children's Workshop



Students participating the Workshop



Certificate Distribution



Certificate Distribution – Prof. V.H. Sonawane



Certificate Distribution – Prof. P. Ajitprasad



Children's with workshop certificates



Children's with workshop certificates

Special Lectures



Special lecture delivered by Prof. Deepak Kannal



Special lecture delivered by Prof. V. H. Sonawane



Felicitating Experts by giving IGNCAs' memento



Students attending special lecture