

**A REPORT
ON**



**THE WORLD OF ROCK ART
AT
SRIMANTA SANKARDEV KALASHETRA, GUWAHATI
(12TH APRIL -3RD MAY, 2013)**

The circulatory exhibition, 'The World of Rock Art' was further taken to Guwahati from Bharat Kala Bhawan, BHU Varanasi, where it was open for public from 5th-28th March, 2013. In Guwahati it was organised in collaboration with Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalashetra and housed in its Art Gallery. The exhibition was open for public from 12th April to 3rd May, 2013.

The exhibition at Guwahati was inaugurated on 12th April 2013 by the Chief Guest, Shri Swapnanil Baruah, Commissioner & Secretary, Cultural Affairs Department, Government of Assam. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Professor Birendranath Datta, eminent folklorist and former President of Assam Sahitya Sabha. Shri Ratna Ojha, Vice-chairman of Kalashetra Society was a Guest of Honour for the occasion. Introduction to the exhibition and welcome address was given by Dr. B. L. Malla and vote of thanks by Professor A. C. Bhagabati. Two special lectures on the rock art and living traditions of North-Eastern states were also organised along with the exhibition. The first special lecture was delivered by Dr. Somnath Chakravarty of Calcutta University on 'Megaliths and Rock Art Tradition in the East and North-Eastern States of India' on 12th April, 2013. While the second lecture was given by Dr. Dwipen Bezbaruha of Guwahati University on the topic 'Megalithic Monuments and the Context of Rock Art in North-East India' on 13th April, 2013.

The exhibition at Guwahati got huge response from the viewers. The whole event at Guwahati was widely covered by the print and electronic media. This event successfully showcased the rock art project and the methodology adopted for its documentation and study by the IGNSA. This event gave the opportunity to extend the outreach programmes of IGNSA to the North East States where the Rock art studies and research is in formative stage. Most of the people, who visited the exhibition including the scholar community of Assam, were not aware about the antiquity of rock art and its importance. Their first impression and honest submission was that they were not aware about these first artistic/ creative expressions of man and its interesting universality of themes worldwide before. After visiting exhibition they felt that IGNSA is the only institution in India to take up such project of documentation and scholarly research of Rock Art of multidisciplinary nature. Such responses from the diverse visitors are highly encouraging for us as the organisers of such event. The success of the event can further be measured as the Department of Anthropology; University of Guwahati is planning to introduce Rock Art Conservation in their post graduate course.

The circulatory exhibition was further taken to Bhubaneswar from Guwahati and would be open for public viewing from 18th May to 23rd June, 2013 at Odisha State Museum.