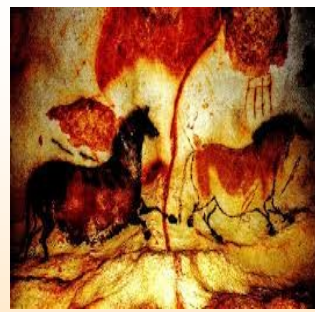


Rock art of the world is a fascinating saga of human endeavour to translate his aesthetic sensitivity into reality. From time immemorial the early man started to record the world around him and his activities for the life sustenance and to bring forth his progenies to flourish. He lived in the natural caves and shelters which he decorated with paintings and engravings; the subject matter that he could see in nature and life around him. Rock art is known from almost all corners of the world, except Antarctica. Evidences are found from all the continents starting from the Old World i.e. Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Asia is the largest continent of the world and has diverse art heritage. The huge area can be divided into five regions; Central, West, East, South and Southeast Asia. In Central Asia the two most important rock art zones are Tamgaly of Kazakhstan and Altai mountains.



Animals petroglyphs, Pilbara Western Australia



Lascaux cave, Dordogne, France

life was well evidenced in the diverse nature of depictions. The Anthropomorphic figures of the Coso range, California, the shamanistic representations of Texas, representations of the ancestral beings from Australia, depictions of the Bushman myths from Southern Africa are the reflections of the religious beliefs, myths and customs of early man. In this great diversity of the rock art heritage, instances of the universality of human mind is also mirrored in the depictions of cupules and hand prints found almost in all the corners of the world.



Bhimlat, Bundi, Rajasthan



River site at Domkhar, Ladakh

The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh form part of the Northern region. Although, so far no rock art has been reported from the politically demarcated present state of Punjab but a number of rock art sites has been found in the vicinity of its neighbouring states. Rock art is known from Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The rock art of Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir) is exclusively petroglyphic while that of Uttarakhand is predominantly pictographic with small percentage of petroglyphs. The rock art of Ladakh is to be visualised as part of a larger tradition encompassing Pakistan, China and parts of Central Asia. In Ladakh, two thematically distinct rock art traditions are visible. The first is secular, predominantly hunting scenes, animal and human figures and the second has religious affiliation. In Himachal Pradesh the rock art sites are concentrated in the Spiti valley of Lahaul-Spiti district which is predominantly petroglyphic depicting animals and hunting scenes. Petroglyphs of Uttarakhand almost exclusively comprises of cup-marks.

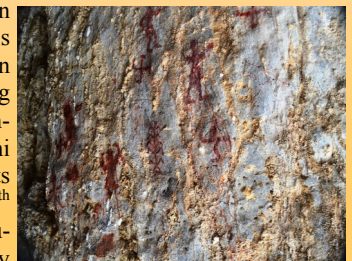
were their source of life sustenance. Naturalistic representation of wild animals and hunting scenes are thus the most common subject. Possessing brute-power might have been the most desired concern for the early man and as such representations of their anthropoes (Half human and half animal features) are commonly found from the Palaeolithic period of Europe to the South African Bushman paintings. After the introduction of domestication of plants and animals, the complexity of human life style in material culture as well as in social



Rock Art of Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

the earliest records of human presence in these regions. The rock art sites in the Uttarakhand are reported from the districts of Almora, Pithoragarh, Uttarakashi, Pauri and Chamoli. The sustained efforts by individual scholars and enthusiasts and Government departments have led to the discovery of rock art from Chandauli, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Allahabad, Chitrakoot, Banda and Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

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. The exhibition



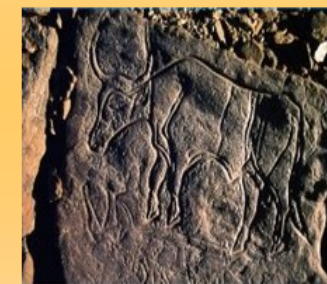
Nimaloksa, Spiti Himachal Pradesh



Kilvalai, Tamilnadu

was earlier hosted respectively at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (5th to 28th March, 2013), then in Srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra, Guwahati (12th April to 3rd May, 2013), at Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar (18th May to 23rd June, 2013), at Department of History, Pondicherry University, Puducherry (25th July to 25th August, 2013), at National Gallery of

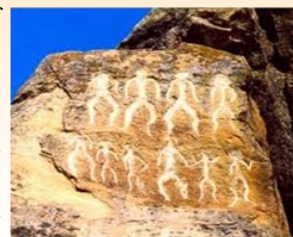
Modern Arts, Bengaluru (3rd December, 2013 to 3rd January, 2014) at Center for Heritage Studies Thripunithura, Kerala (28th November, 2014 to 28th December, 2014), at Sangeetha Mahal Palace Complex, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu (6th May-21st June, 2015)



Domestic bull, Messak, Libya

any other country. In East Asia, China and Japan are two important countries with rich concentration of rock art. In the East and Southeast Asia, rock art sites are reported from Indonesia, Myanmar etc. Several techniques are employed to execute rock art like; shallow carvings, scraping, pecking, finger fluting and polishing in case of petroglyphs (engravings) while in pictographs, painting and stencilling are the two major techniques.

The subject matter of the rock art is also varied; starting from the simplest geometrical lines found in the Panaramittee tradition of Australia to complex geometrical designs executed by the Chumash people of California. Animals are the most favoured subjects of the early man as they



Gobustan, Azerbaijan



Mavadaippu, Tamil Nadu

at ASI, Puratattva Bhavan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur from 19th Nov to 20th Dec, 2015, at Regional Science City, Lucknow (26th April – 24th May, 2016) and at Himachal State Museum, Shimla (15th June – 24th July, 2016). An exhibition on the **'Indian Rock Art'** was on display in Yinchuan City, China.

The exhibition was inaugurated on the occasion of the World Rock Art Conference held from 26th – 28th August, 2014. The exhibition remained open for public for about one year from 26th August, 2014 to 30th September, 2015. Another Exhibition on **'India-China Rock Art'** was recently on display at IGNCA, New Delhi from 24th February - 27th March, 2016.

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



Lekhamonda, Sundergarh, Odisha

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.



Khajuri Village, Rayagada, Odisha

just to give a glimpse of continuity of artistic traditions in Indian context.



Venue:

**Departmental Museum
Deptt. of A.I.H.C & A**

Panjab University, Sector-14, Chandigarh-160014



The World of **Rock Art** Exhibition (10th August-10th September, 2016)



Organised by

**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
(Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
in collaboration with
Deptt. of A.I.H.C & A
Panjab University, Chandigarh**