



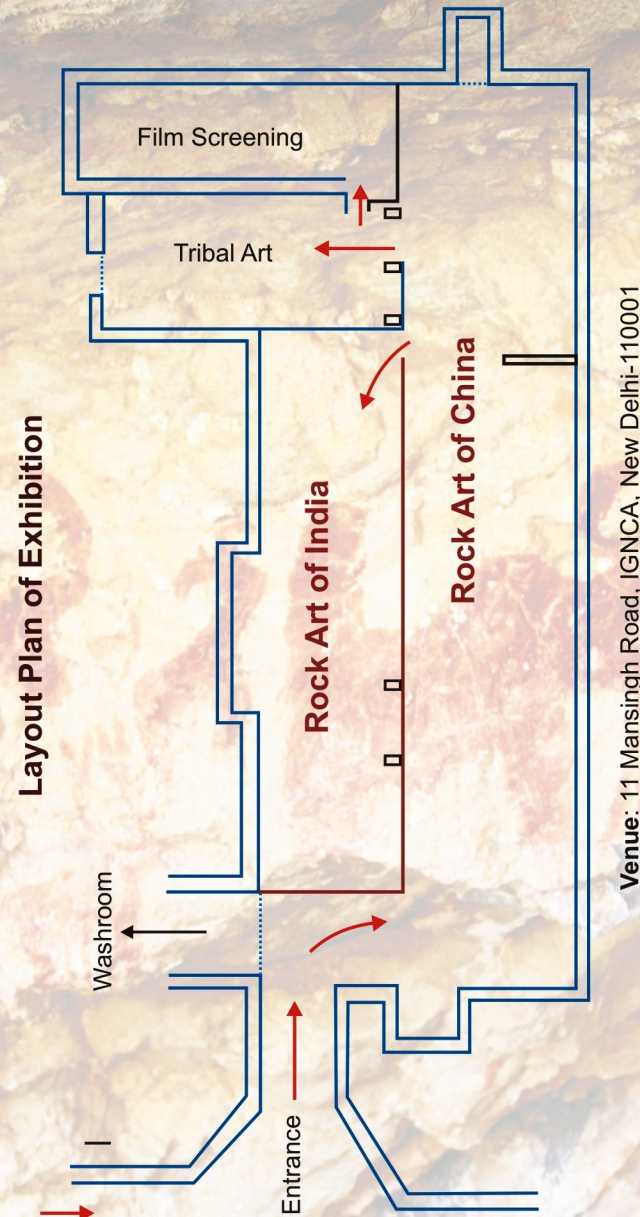
Animal petroglyphs, Kupgal, Bellary

patterns. Central and Western zones have painted rock shelters where specific themes are drawn. In the Eastern zone rock paintings show large number of decorative motifs. Petroglyphs (engravings on rock) are a novel feature of Odisha. Petroglyphs depicting hunting scenes, procession of animals and dancing human figures are the main themes in the rock art of Jammu and Kashmir. In Uttarakhand, paintings of rows of anthropomorphic figures are the common motif. South India has both pictographs as well as petroglyphs. Petroglyphs, most popular in Karnataka, depict figures of humped cattle, deer and hunting scenes on boulders. 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.



Animal figures, Kaimur hills, Bihar

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.



Venue : Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
11, Mansingh Road, Opp. Raksha Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001

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INDIA-CHINA ROCK ART

**WORKSHOP-CUM-EXHIBITION
2016**

24th February - 27th March, 2016

Organised by:
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

in collaboration with
Administration Office of
Helanshan Rock Art, Yinchuan City, China
Rock Art Research Association of China
Minzu University of China

Early man started to record the world around him and his activities for the life sustenance and to bring forth his progenies to flourish since time immemorial. He inhabited 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. Naturalistic representations of wild animals and hunting scenes are thus the most common subjects.



Rock painting of Huashan, Zuojiang River, Guangxi



Hunting scene and sun motifs, Burzahom, Jammu and Kashmir

Domestication of plants and animals, the complexity of human life style in material culture as well as in social life was well evidenced in the diverse nature of depictions. This prehistoric art perhaps comes to signify the underlying philosophies and the worldview of our ancestors, and tells us about the soul of a community, its thoughts, beliefs and emotions. 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.

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. Both India and China are fortunate in



Handprints, Alashan, Yabulay, Inner Mongolia



Anthropomorphs and human face, Xianzitan, Fujian

possessing one of the largest concentrations of this precious heritage. The rock art repertoire of China is rich and diverse. Chinese rock art, whether realistic or abstract, zoomorphic or simple cupules, can be connected to early human traditions and spirituality. Researchers believe that cupules, abstracts and simple mask images are the earliest rock art in China. Scenes with animals or humans increased in the rock art and also in the spiritual life of people during the Bronze Age. Due to its long tradition of written history in China, it is possible to make spiritual connection further back in time with more confidence than for many other parts of the world.

In the rock art of China there is a close relationship between the distribution of Chinese rock art and ancient Chinese tradition, ecology and environment, economic models and ethnic cultural circles. In the rock art of the northern grasslands, animal gods and reproductive ceremonies were made by nomadic groups, while on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, changes in the indigenous Bon religion can be traced through changes in rock art, which also reflects movements of people. South-western China is an area of pictographs, and the large painted sites in this environment of closed mountains and valleys indicate that people focused on the strong function of the social organization.



Cupules, Juci Moutain, Henan Province



Yaks, Ritu, Western Tibet



Boar and human figures, Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh

Collective tribal dance in this region was used to communicate worship to tribal ancestors. In the old rock art of eastern China are the simple abstracts, including many recesses or cupules.

The present exposition of rock art in Chinese section has been categorized in the following four sections: i) Rock art of Northern China, ii) Rock art of Western China, iii) Pictographs of South-western China and iv) Petroglyphs of Eastern China.

For the present exhibition, exhibits in the Indian section are chosen from the following five regions of India: i) Rock Art of Northern Region, ii) Rock Art of North-East Region, iii) Rock Art of Southern Region, iv) Rock Art of Eastern Region, v) Rock Art of Western Region and vi) Rock Art of Central Region.



Human figures, Ongana Beni Pahar, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh

India houses one of the largest, richest and diverse repositories of rock art traditions. Rock art has been found throughout the length and breadth of the country. Central India has by far the largest concentration of painted rock shelters. In the Central, Western and Eastern parts of the country rock art is found on the walls and ceilings of these rock shelters. In Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh rock art is reported from boulders. Kerala is notable for rock art evidence found in underground caves. The Megalithic burials are the favoured canvas in Tamilnadu. Fortunately, India has one of the world's six major prehistoric rock art concentrations belonging to the Stone Age.

Thematically and stylistically different regions in the country have brought to light several regional