

Design Resource

Stone Carving - Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Art work on Stone

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Aakash Sharma

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/stone-carving-bhubaneswar-orissa>



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Introduction

Indian history is the most prevalent with its principles of art and craft and mainly concentrating towards stone carving. The history of India created when man first appeared on the globe. Since then, the people along with numerous countries on earth existed progressing without interruption in handicraft, physical sciences practical to manual activities, art work on Marble, Sandstone, Lime stone and Soap stone community's improvement and religious involvement. At first a stones were haphazardly picked up many determinations, Man initiated producing tools for himself from when he began his career on this earth. When mankind first spread against a stone or hit his head against the sagging branch of a forest tree, instead of wasting his impotent time, he started making use of the stones and turned the experience to throw that stone as a missile at an enemy or broke the branches to use it as a weapon, he then began his human living on earth.

The earliest tools must have been made by cracking or hammering a piece of stones with another stone to improve its shape and extend it for use. These first tools were made by splitting; pebbles were sensibly selected from single-beds and, by a skilful blow or two with another stone, the required sharp edges were produced. Carving on stone and engraving on bones were practiced in an artistic sense of man to reach its highest point. The cave carving where made by man for his shelter. Drawings and paintings of human, animals, notable carvings in horn and engravings on stone made by artists have been discovered by the researchers. The period of Stone sculptors also observed by the construction of countless stone temples, many of which attained considerable size. As vast quantities of sculpture were required to decorate their lavish exteriors and simpler interiors, much of the work is little more than sharp executed architectural ornament. Carving is a difficult process, requiring skill, attentiveness and extreme carefulness. It is a process in which forms are cut away or deducted from the original solid material.

It was originally built in the Maurya period, and a massive column with a lion capital of that era stands nearby. Significant enlargements were made in the second century B.C., the period of the plain stone barrier as well. Alexander Cunningham, later the first director-general of the Archaeological Survey of India, excavated the ruins of Sarnath from 1834-36, and made the notable find of a large hoard of stone sculpture in a room to the northwest of the Dhamekh stupa. Range of sculptors were found and all the goddesses stand on lotus flowers with petals drooping over the edge of the stone. They also have the same lotus crowns ringed with beads. Sandstone sheets with geometric and floral design were complete to decorate palaces and tombs during the original period. The Mughals in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries built some of the most beautiful structures in the world like the Taj Mahal in Agra. The sculptural decorations are of many diversities of marble mesh are made out of a single slab of stone that is cut to produce a framework window that allows for light and ventilation. To make stone marble or sandstone panels the artist has to slice out the design in the form of partitions on the flat stone slab. Then precious and semi-precious stones are cut into exact pieces of the pattern and laid into the partitions. The stone work in the Taj Mahal is so extraordinary that over twenty pieces of different coloured stones were used to create a single flower.

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Carving is a subtractive process in which the material being carved is chipped, gouged, or hammered away from an inert, raw block of material. Stone is the most common carving materials and this material present problems for the artist to solve. Sculptors who work in stone must take into account the different features of each type of stone. Sandstone is realistic and coarse, marble soft and crystalline, granite dense and hard. Each must be dealt with different pressure and strength.

Karnataka sculptors carve images, panels of gods and goddesses, ornaments, bowls, vases, and book-ends from a variety of stones available in this State.

In Madhya Pradesh the soft marble rocks of Bhedaghat on the banks of the Narmada provide craftsmen with excellent raw material to make carved panels, figurines and boxes.

Uttar Pradesh is one of the leading producers and exporters of stoneware in India. Soft marble and soft streaked Gorahari stone of many shades are inlaid with semiprecious stones. Inlaid table tops, plates and decorative items are produced in Agra.

Tamil Nadu is famous for stone sculpture and they have been established in many places such as Mahabalipuram, where a training school has trained a number of young artists in traditional stone-carving techniques and in making statues.

In Orissa the stone cutters of Puri work mainly in soapstone. Harder stone is used for temple building. Traditional stone carvers in Mangalpur make stone utensils from semi-hard grey stone and add to it a beautiful polish. Grey stone from Khichling are made into items for the urban market, like boxes and containers, bowls and vases.

The team interviewed Mr. Raghunath Mohapatra who is a Padmabhushan (The fourth highest civilian award of Republic India) and National awardee in the year 1974 & 1968. He was born in a small village named Badrinathpur and gradually moved to Bhubaneshwar. His family built temples across Odisha and now, he is looking forward to rebuild the Konark temple on a land provided by government. According to him, his forefathers contributed their effort to few of the popular temples like Konark and Jagarnath in Odisha. He is been practicing stone art since when he was 6 years old. He was taken back to hometown by his grandfather when he injured one of his finger, being between the artists, he was trained on stone sculpture. When he turned 17 years old, a government organization identified him as an expert craftsmen, offered him a job after which he was exposed to the industry in a vast manner. Gaining experience with talent, he was very soon recognized as Master craftsmen. In the year 1960, he moved to Puri and trained other staff. He also sculpted some of the major sculptors like, 24 feet horse for temple Konark, sculpture for New Delhi parliament and the Samadhi of Rajiv Gandhi (Ex-prime minister of India).

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Shilpi Guru Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra is a noted architect and sculpture from Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

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Bhubaneswar to Puri highway road view near Raghunath Arts & Crafts Center.



A view of Raghunath Arts & Crafts Center.



Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2013 by President of India Pranab Mukherjee.



Delightfully carved a part of Konark temple sculpture was displayed in Raghunath Arts & Crafts Center.

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Artisans are dedicatedly involving in working on stone sculpture.



Carefully carving the details of elephant sculpture was done in soap stone.



Artisan involving in carving the sculpture on soap stone with the help of flat chisel and wooden hammer.

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The artist involved in carving work.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials are required for Stone Carving:

- **Wooden Hammer:** To hammer the Chesil while carving the stone.
- **Iron Hammer:** A tool used to carve hard stone in a vast area.
- **Tools from Rajasthan:** With a diamond tip which helps in easy carving.
- **Chesil:** A wide edged tool used to carve out the stone.
- **Cutting Machine:** Different types of automated cutting machines are used to cut the bigger stone blocks.
- **Drilling Machine:** A spinning tool used to carve out fine folding of the stone.
- **Grinding Machine:** To grind the stone and ease the process of carving.
- **Right Angle:** A scale used to measure 90 degree angle.
- **Scales:** These are used for measurement.
- **Metal File:** A tool used to polish and smoothen the surface texture.
- **Measuring Tapa:** A tape used to measure large piece of stone to check the ratio of size.
- **Sand Paper:** A paper coated with sand which is used to polish the surface of stone.
- **Wax Polish:** Once the sculpture is complete, wax helps in polishing to gain shine.
- **Araldite:** A strong glue used to stick the broken pieces together.
- **Brush:** Used to clear out excess stone dust.
- **Pencil:** A Stationary used to draw on stone.
- **Red Oxide Solution:** The stencils are drawn on the surface of the stone using red oxide solution, before carving.

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- **Water:** To sprinkle/pour to ease the carving.
- **Raw Materials:** Black granite, Red granite, White Granite and Soapstone.



Small and big different stones are set aside in work place.

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Soapstone, Black and Red granite are mainly use for the sculptures.

Small flat edged chisel and diamond tip chisel tool use to carve out the stone.

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Hard and a wide edged chisel tool use to carve stone and also L shaped scale are used to measure while carving the stone.



Diamond tip chisel tool and Metal file tool used to smoothen the surface texture.



Wooden and Iron hammer used to hammer the chisel while carving the stone.



Sharpening stones or water stones are used to grind and hone the edges of chisels.

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Electric cutting machine to cut the stone and ease the process of carving.



Metal Patching paste are used to stick the broken pieces together.

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Making Process

The nature of stone will determine how the sculpture is organized and also its possibilities. Soft soap stone allows for gentle, intricate carving whereas sandstone, a fragile sedimentary rock with layers of fine flattened sands and grains, has to be touched with extreme care as it breaks easily.

Within each group of stone there is enormous variety. Sandstone choices from the golden yellow of Jaisalmer to the soft pitted and speckled stone of Mathura and Fatehpur Sikri. The sculptors of India have remained using these stones for the past five thousand years. The change in treatment of one stone from another in the hands of an artist can be seen in the granite sculptures of Mahabalipuram and the sandstone figures of Khajuraho. Hard granite stone was used in South India to make temples and household items like grinding stones. The quality of stone available in each region of India distinguishes the style and form that can be created.

Even today the stone carvers of Bhubaneswar begin with a prayer that first forgiveness from Mother Earth for cutting the stone and for not wasting the any stone. The most interesting part of the creative process is when the artist chooses the stone piece to work on. The artisan starts locating a good stone quarry, then begins the process of drawing and cutting what he needs from the rock. Making of sculpture includes various parameter when it comes to starting till ending process. Once the stone is selected by calculating and checking if any cracks exist, the basic shape is identified by the artisan keeping his concept in mind. Cutting machine is used as it's a process in which forms are cut away or subtracted from the original solid stone. Metal chisels are hammered in a straight line into the rock at intervals. Water is poured on to the rock to wet the stone. The change in night and day temperatures causes contraction and expansion and the rock gradually splits along the straight spike lines into the required shapes. A block of stone is carved by chiseling away tiny chips in order to create the desired shape. Artisan have an accurate idea of how far to carve and which area needs to be remove from the block of stone by chiseling away tiny chips in order to create the desired shape. Carving is a difficult process and it requires skills with a lot of concentration and extreme caution. The artisan will not afford to make any mistakes as carving out a stone cannot replace back to its position. One cannot afford to make mistakes in this process for once the stone is cut away or carved it cannot be put back. Artisan needs to plan in advance the shape of the face, the size of the smile and the right angle of the jewel that will adorn a carved image. Imagining the acumen needed to plan in advance the shape of the face, the size of the smile and the right angle of jewel that will adorn a carved image. The exquisitely carved jewelry, consisting of looped girdles, necklaces with strings of pearls falling between the breasts, earrings, and other ornaments, is similar for all the figures. Once the rough work is over, details are carved with finer tools and then the stone is polished. Some stones can be polished to shine like a mirror.

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Flow Chart Stone Carving

A stone is selected by measuring and to avoid crack

Basic shape is identified by artisan keeping his concept in mind

Carving process requires skills with lot of concentration & caution

Deep cutting machine cuts out the unwanted solid stone

Every idea is judged before removing the stone block

Flat chisels are hammered in straight line to break the rock

Getting cracks are avoided and minor cracks are glued

Hand chiseling is followed to chip the desired shape

Image of face, size and angle are carved on the stone

Jewelers are carved with the help of minute tools

Knife sharp tools helpst in smoothening the rough space

Laminating with wax helps in protecting the stone from damage

Mirror like shine reflects after final finish.

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Soapstone, Black and Red granite are mainly use for the sculptures.



By using pencil, the block of stone is roughly design is marked on it.



The sketching is done in detail by cutting and chiselling.

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By using hard chisel and hammer, rough detailing are done referred by sketch design.

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Involved in detailing out of shape on the stone statue.



Applying metal patching paste on broken pieces of stone to stick together.

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Rough detailed sculpture is joining together to complete the idol.



Detailing is done by using different types of tools in different ways.



The excess of dust after carving is removed with a help of brush.

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Fine details are created using flat chisels and hammers of various size.

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Artisan works on the detailing with the help of pointed chisel.

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Flat chisel is used to enhance the detailing work.



Various styles of lord Ganesha and also lord Hanuman and Buddha is carved in different stones.

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Products

The final products are revealed in the form of concept, depicting a story, subjective, and representing the daily ancient life. Relief-sculptured Panel's which are carved only one sided, with the depth and shallow feel while the other side is flat and is usually embedded into the masonry work of the building. A low relief can be deep and high. Relief can almost look like a three-dimensional sculpture. Three-dimensional Figures - Such figures can be viewed from all sides. They can also be used to create free-standing pillars like those erected by the king Ashoka throughout his empire in the third century BCE till date representing the famous personality or traditional god/goddess.

Stone carvings also include household objects like bowls, plates, grinding stones, pillars, beams and brackets for construction of houses. Figures made in solid materials like stone are further classified into categories that explain their technical dimensions: Hard granite stone are used in making temples and household items like grinding stones etc. All the raw material when is carved and bought to a shape, is kept for sale starting from 2 inches to life size and more than that. These sculptures are shipped with stiff packing and are installed according to the customer's requirement. Wax coated sculptures last longer as they are given a fine layer on the object which makes it a water resistant.



Small size Lord Ganesha and Buddha idols are made in soap stone.

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Different types of god and goddess sculptures are displayed in Raghunath Arts & Crafts Centre.



Various styles of lord Ganesha and also lord Hanuman and Buddha idols are displayed.

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Delightfully carved a part of Konark temple sculpture was displayed in Raghunath Arts & Crafts centre.



A Story of Lord Ganesha and Lord Vishnu sculpture are done in the black granite.



Using sand stone and black granite, beautifully carved Lord Hanuman and other idols.

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Attractively carved life size Nataraja idols in soap stone and granite.

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Attractive sculpture of Buddha was done in white granite.



Artisan taken out the attractive idol of Lord Krishna in sand stone.



Shilabalika sculpture was done in sand stone with an attractive jewellery designs.

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Using three different granite Lord Ganesha was carved with a fine detailing designs.

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Lord Ganesha idol with a beautiful jewellery design was done in sand stone.



Using granite artisan carved a Lord Ganesha idol with a different style.



Artisan was carved by using different granite with a different sculptures.

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Lord Ganesha idol was carved by using red granite with a fine finish.

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This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Aakash Sharma at **NID Campus, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with

- Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Key Contacts:

Shri Ramakanta Mahapatra
Mahapatra Handicraft Emporium
Bhubaneswar
Orissa
Land phone: - 0674 2343313
Cell phone: - 09437031861

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
R & D Campus
National Institute of Design
#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru 560 022
India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054

Fax: +91 80 23373086

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)