

# SCULPTURES

Project 1 Report: Summer Internship at SSVAD, Santiniketan

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## Abstract

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This report is part of Project I-summer internship in SSVAD, Santiniketan. The duration of summer internship was around 1 month. The objective of the internship was to learn making sculptures and understand different mediums used for sculpting. I worked in clay, Plaster of Paris, soap, nuts, screws and wires to understand the basics of sculpting. I made a few sculptures in each of these mediums. I didn't have much of an experience in sculpting so learning about sculptures from Santiniketan was not only fun but a lot informative. After one month of summer internship, my experiences helped me to create a better sense towards crafts and design. I further look forward in continuing sculpting and would keep on exploring more and more in the beautiful world of sculpting.



## Acknowledgment

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First and foremost I would like to thank IDC for giving me an opportunity to visit the place Santiniketan in West Bengal so that I could learn from the artists living in that place.

I would like to thank Kaushik Halder for guiding me throughout the process of learning and making the learning an enjoyable activity.

Thanks to the members of SSVAD for the provision of resources and allowing me space in the studio to work on my sculpture projects.

I would also to express my gratitude towards the professors of Kala Bhavan for sharing their valuable time and support.



## Certificate





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## Introduction

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This project is all about my learning from a place in West Bengal called Santiniketan. The aim of this project is to be familiar with the basics of sculpting and also understanding the nature of different materials used for sculpting. I started with visiting the college Kala Bhavan for the first few days. Kala Bhavan happens to be among the country's best Art college which was established by Rabindranath Tagore way back in 1919. The Degree Show of the students was being held at that period and I was fortunate enough to interact with the students and be able to learn from the enthusiastic people of my age group. My purpose of visit was to understand art in depth from the professors in Kala Bhavan and to come up with some experiments of my own which being a reflection of my learning.





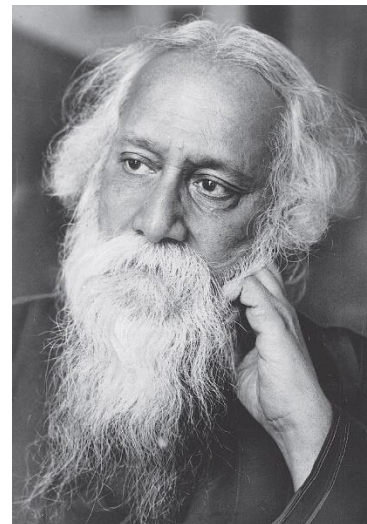
## Santiniketan

Santinikethan is a small town near Bolpur in the Birbhum district of West Bengal, India which is around 160 kilometres north of Kolkata. It was established by Rabindranath Tagore. The arts college of Visvabharathi, Kala Bhavana is a wonderful campus with many paintings, murals and sculptures.



## Influence of Tagore

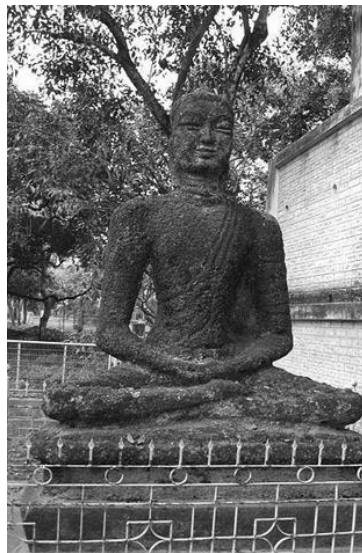
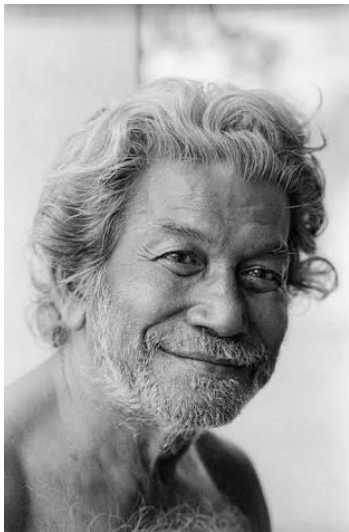
The works of Rabindranath Tagore greatly influenced the people in and around Santiniketan. His power and influence brought many eminent people to the place. There is no other person who is more influential than him in shaping the village and surrounding areas.





## Ram Kinkar Baij

Ram Kinkar Baij was an Indian Sculptor and painter born in 1906. He is known to be one of the pioneers of modern Indian Sculpture. He lived in Santiniketan and many of his sculptures can be found in the college premises. Most of his famous works are stone sculptures. His works were mainly inspired by the Adivasi communities living in Santiniketan.





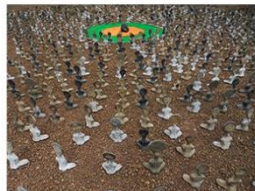


## Inspiration

I was fortunate enough to visit the Degree Show of the students of Kala Bhavan which happened to be during the month of May. I interacted with the students there and learnt about the ideas that motivated them to make beautiful artworks. I had been granted the permission to take photographs of some of the works of the students of the sculpture department.

The interaction with the students was a lot informative for me. The students had tried making sculptures from stuff which were not actually art relevant. This idea of putting non-art material in creating art inspired me. So, apart from clay and Plaster of Paris, I also tried my hands on soap to sculpt. The works of the students were really inspiring and spoke a lot on behalf of their creators.









## Project Guide

Kaushik Halder is a freelance sculptor who works in SSVAD. SSVAD stands for Santiniketan Society of Visual Art and Design. It is a studio dedicated to artists who can work in the studio. He completed his Master in Fine Arts programme from Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan in 2014. He won National Award for one of his sculptures. All of his works have been done in paper mache. He mentored me during this period of one month and I got to learn a lot about sculptures, right from square zero to the execution step.



Title : Broken bells, Medium : Paper mash, Size : 12 x 180 x 60 inch, Year : 2013, Artist's name : Kaushik Halder.



Kaushik Halder Title : Lullaby, Medium Paper Mache, Iron Aramature, Size 68x38x25 Cms, Year: 2013.



Title: A Crazy Morning, Medium-Paper Mache, Iron, Size-20x45x11 Inch, Year- 2014



Kaushik Halder Title : Suffering Medium Paper Mache, Iron Aramature, Size 68x60x62 Cms, Year: 2014



Kaushik Halder: Title- changes of life-2, Medium- Paper Mache, Iron Aramature, Size 34x20x17 Inch, Year: 2013



## Projects

My idea of internship was not only to learn sculptures but also, try different mediums in sculpting. Because, every material is so different from one another in terms of physical and chemical characteristics, it became interesting to see the results when I experimented different techniques in sculpting those materials.

Sculpting techniques are basically of two types- Additive where the material is added and Subtractive where the material is carved out or removed. I got to learn both the techniques and have tried to implement my learnings in my works. I sculpted using the materials terracotta, Plaster of Paris, soaps, nut and screws and wires respectively.





## Clay

### Process

The very first in making sculptures is to make macades. Macades are nothing but sketches done prior to sculpting. The clay is mixed thoroughly by hands. Water can be added to make it soft at times. It should be mixed until the colour of the clay doesn't get in to the hands. Once this happens, we reckon that the clay is now suitable for sculpting. It is to be made sure that the pebbles in the clay should be removed during mixing because if unnoticed, they might create distortions in the sculpture during the process.

Another important point to be remembered is that the clay should be covered. If the clay is exposed to air for a long time, it becomes hard making it unsuitable for sculpting. Although, the hardened clay can again be used for sculpting but it has to be kept in the sun for 2-3 days so that it completely dries and then again it is kept in a container filled with water. After one day, the clay can be used for the sculpting purpose.

Clay sculpting is an additive sculpting technique in which the material is added to form the sculpture. The material is such added that the actual form of the sculpture gets done. It is just a rough outline of the finished product. Then using the clay sculpting tools, the sculpting can be done at parts to create the final piece.

### Tools







## Analysis of the material and technique

### Merits

1. It is easy to play with clay and mould it according to the desired shapes.
2. The work can be resumed by keeping the clay covered and not allowing any passage of air.

### Demerits

1. It becomes hard on exposure to moisture

### Precautions

1. Mixing has to be done properly and one should give enough time to this step. It becomes a lot important because the more the clay is mixed with hands, the softer and better it becomes for the sculpture.
2. Water has to be sprayed regularly during sculpting otherwise the material becomes hard. The difference in the softness of the material and the new softer material result in cracks during the baking process in the furnace.





Clay Sculptures

Anatomy Study

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## Clay Sculptures

### Lord Buddha

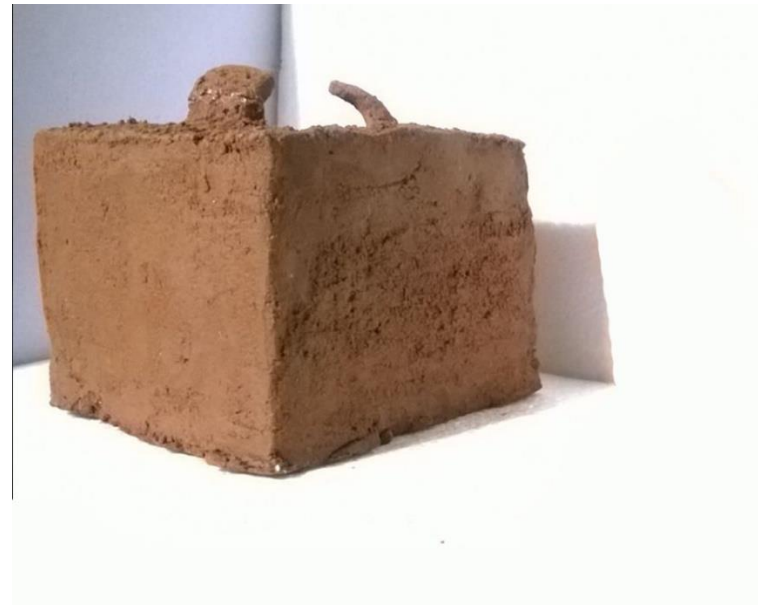






## Clay Sculptures

Abstract sculpture- Heart with a band aid





## Plaster of Paris

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### Process

It becomes really difficult to work with this material because once we add water to the Plaster of Paris powder, it becomes hard in around 30-40 seconds and then it is of no use moulding it with hands.

First, the macade of the sculpture is prepared and then accordingly, the form is prepared by mixing plaster of Paris with water. If the water is proportionally more than the powder, then it becomes a little easy because then the material takes time to harden. The form is prepared such that using subtractive techniques, it's dimensions can be reduced to form the sculpture. The form should be put to rest for at least 10-15 minutes so that it turns completely hard and becomes ready for sculpting. Then using the wood carving tools, the material was carved out and in some areas removed to form the final piece.







## Analysis of the material and technique

### Merits

1. Material gets hardened quickly so it is less time consuming.
2. Although the material is hard, it doesn't require that much effort as in wood sculpting.
3. If the sculpture breaks at any point of time, the powder can be mixed with water to replace the damaged portion.

### Demerits

1. The material dries very quickly when it comes in contact with water. So, one gets very less time in building the form for the sculpture.
2. The material sticks to the fingers while mixing it with water, thereby consuming some time for its removal in the form preparing process.

### Precautions

1. One should put on hand gloves while mixing the material with water otherwise it can cause slight damage to the skin. The heat evolved in the reaction damages the skin.
2. If one needs more time for the material to harden, he can use more quantity of water than the material. As a result, the material takes more time to become hard.

### Tools





Plaster of Paris sculptures

Lord Jesus





Gandhiji

Scooter





## Nut and Screw

### Process

The macades of the sculptures was made on paper. Taking them as reference, the nuts and screws of different sizes were arranged to prepare the sculpture.

I used glue to attach the parts of the sculpture. Although, the adhesive nature of the glue sometimes failed against gravity. The joints of the sculpture turned weak and the same sticking process was repeated.

### Analysis of the material and method

#### Merits

1. The shapes are predefined. All one needs is to join them appropriately according to the macade.
2. No anatomy issues.

#### Demerits

1. It was difficult to glue the uneven surfaces of the screws with the nuts.

### Precautions

1. The application of glue should be done carefully otherwise applying glue forcefully on some parts can weaken other joints of the sculpture.





## Nut and screw sculptures

Romance







## Nut and Screw Sculptures

3 monkeys

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## Soap

### Process

The sculpting process done on soaps was subtractive. I used wood carving tools to do the same. Initially, I prepared a sketch of the artwork on paper. Then on the soap piece, using a needle, I drew the drawing of the sculpture on the front face of the soap (as it would appear from the front after carving.) I drew the left side view of the sculpture on the left sided face of the soap. Now, I have a reference to the drawn lines and I can begin sculpting now.

Initially I prepared the rough form on the soap so that I have an idea as to how my sculpture would look like. It also gives an idea about the dimensions we need to work on. After the form is done, I carved it with the reference lines on the soap and also looking at the macade at times. This technique really helped me as I was confident that my dimensions are correct and there is no incorrect sculpting move. Repeating the above steps, we finally prepare our soap sculpture.

### Analysis of Material and method

#### Merits

1. The material is really soft so it is really easy to sculpt

#### Demerits

1. The material doesn't have to come in contact with water or sweat at all.
2. Material of some soaps react with moisture and thus the shapes distort a little.

#### Precautions

1. One should make sure during sculpting that his hands are not wet or sweaty otherwise the soap may produce lather.
2. The material is so soft that one has to take care while sculpting small dimensions.



## Soap Sculptures

Tagore- Dove soap





Woman's footwear- Pears Soap





Asleep-Park Avenue Soap







Bharatnatyam Dancer-Himalaya Soap





## Wire

### Process

Thin and thick galvanized steel wires were used for sculpting. The idea behind was to give an impression of a 3d object using thin wires. The wires became an interesting medium to work on because the visual information about the object is being conveyed using less details. It was like a rough diagram or outline in three dimension. The wires were moulded in different directions to form the sculpture. The thick wires were sometimes hard to bend so pliers were used to do the same. Both the thin and the thick wires were cut using pliers.

### Analysis of the material and method

#### Merits

1. It is pretty easy to get the desired shape as the macade. Less effort is required to bend the wires.(especially the thin ones).
2. The thick wires are really strong.

#### Demerits

1. The shape of the form or the sculpture distorts easily.
2. It has to be handled with care.
3. The folds in the thick wires cannot be undone completely. An impression of an early bend remains in the wires making it unfit for use.



Wire Sculptures

Bear



Golf Player





### Overall experience and learning

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Visiting Santiniketan was a beautiful experience for me. I learnt not only as a designer but also a human being. My one month stay in the place helped a lot to know about the cultural and the social life of the Bengali people. The inclination towards art has been such that they beautifully convey their feelings on the canvas. Although the rising temperatures had been creating discomfort during the daylight, the hard work and the sweat taste good when you see what you get. Not only through my guide but also through the professors and the students of the University, I was getting feedback on the works that I had been doing. This helped me a lot because I was able to correct myself at the very step of creation. Although, I am just a beginner in sculpting, the learning of a month has boosted my confidence in working with clay and Plaster of Paris.





## References

[http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramkinkar\\_Baij](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramkinkar_Baij)

<http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiniketan>