

Design Resource

Scrap Metal Statue - Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

Sculpture Art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/scrap-metal-statue-ahmednagar-maharashtra>



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Introduction

Since ancient age, iron has been worked or wrought to make a range of materials that differ extensively from the counterparts of gold or silver in their attributes and qualities. Tracing back to the history, prevalence of iron objects was comparatively low due to its property of easy corroding. Cast iron is the type where melted iron is poured into a mold and allowed to cool to achieve a particular shape, thus making it different from wrought iron which works on heated cast iron to be shaped with tools. The Cast iron is believed to be invented in China in the 5th century BC and was majorly used to make plowshares, pots, weapons, and pagodas.

Scrap is a leftover obtained after a greater portion of something has been used, thus qualifying itself to be recyclable material. It is largely found throbbing around the manufacturing of vehicles, buildings, and house old items. This with a socially responsible advantage helps support organizations that stand for recycling and environmental protection. This practice of recycling has a rich history that started in 400 BC, where utility objects were made out of recycled glass. Remains of this tradition were first found from the sites of Sagalassos, present-day Turkey. Romans also traded high-priced statues made from melted brass coins. Some legends underline the method of turning jewels and coins into fighting weapons during wars when the kingdom stands in high need of more armaments.

Welding is the method of joining or fusing two metals into one by heating. Since several millennia artisans have been using the technique for making small boxes and jewels, especially in the parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Egypt. Forge welding was extensively used until the middle ages, later with the invention of the acetylene torch in 1900, arc welding came into existence. When coated electrodes were developed, shield welding also known as stick welding became popular, this produces lesser impurities compared to other welding techniques. The technology behind welding evolved further during the world wars, thus now we have around 90 different types of welding processes existing. Coming to scrap metal statues or welded sculptures, this craft was developed by Spain-based Julio Gonzalez, who while running his family metalsmith business, created this art form. Inspired by its success, many artists around India took up this profession and one among them is Mr. Balaji Vallal. He is a well-trained sculpting artisan who runs his art workshop in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. At the center, sculptures of clay, fiber casting, metal spoon birds, and scrap metal statues are developed, which are widely exhibited as well as sold to customers spread widely. He has been felicitated with awards and mementos for his contribution to his area of expertise. Some of his awards and exhibitions are listed below:

Awards:

1. Shilok Kala Academy (1st place) Aurangabad, 2009, 2010 and 2012.
2. Annual Art Exhibition (2nd place) Pune, 2005, 2006 and 2007.
3. State Art (2nd place) Mumbai, 2007.
4. Smruthi Gandhi Art Competition, Pune, 2002.

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Participation:

1. Shilok Kala Academy, Aurangabad, 2013, 2014.
2. Stat Art Exhibition, Mumbai, 2007, 2013.
3. Bombay Art Society, Mumbai, 2007, 2008.
4. National Young Artist Camp, Pune, 2006.

Group Shows:

1. Thulsi Art, Pune, 2014.
2. Aakar Kala Exhibition, Ahmednagar, 2013.
3. India Art Festival, Mumbai, 2012.
4. 130th Monsoon Art Show, Mumbai, 2007.
5. Shilp Mahotsav, Pune, 2006.

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Work area where all his sculptures are made.

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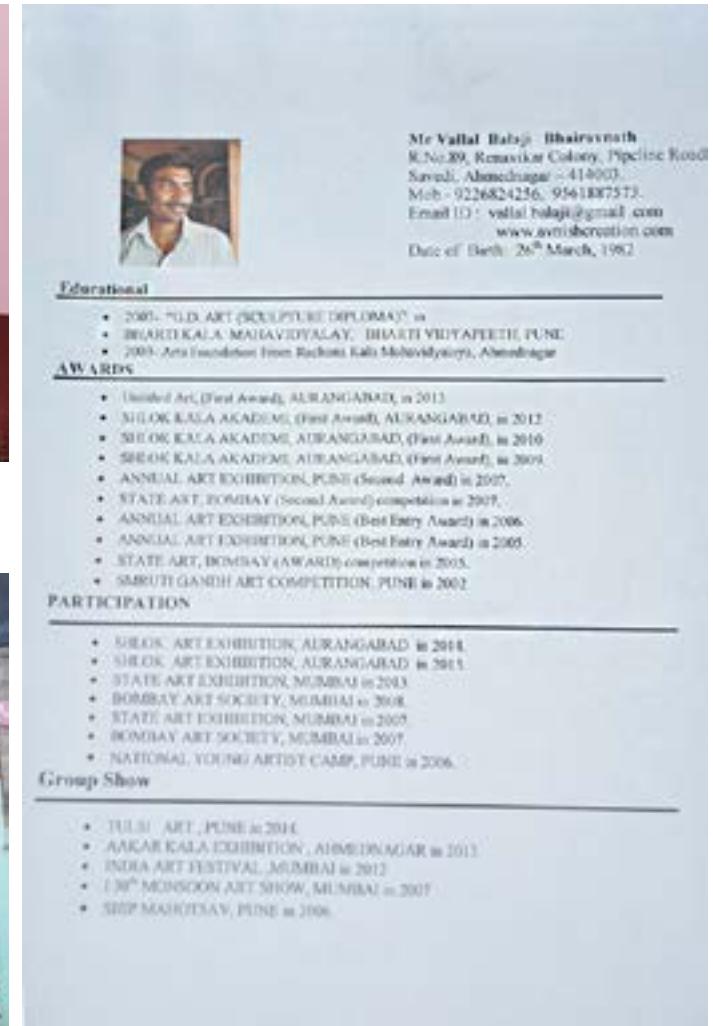
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Mr. Balaji Vallal, artisan and owner of Avnish Creation.



Workplace and residence of Mr. Balaji Vallal.



Mr. Balaji Vallal's awards and exhibitions list.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw material required for the making of scrap metal statue:

- **Scrap Materials:** These are the primary materials for the craft.
- **AC or DC Power Supply Machine:** It is a box-like device that conducts electricity to carry out welding. Welding usually requires a high current that is usually above 800 amperes. In spot welding, the level goes up to 12000 amperes.
- **Welding Goggles:** It is used to protect our eyes from the spark emitted during the welding process.
- **Welding Gun:** It is used to draw an arc between the base material and a consumable electrode rod or stick, using the electric current supplied to it.
- **Cutting Plier:** It is used to bend, cut, or hold any component.
- **Latex Paints:** It is used for spray painting the scrap metal structure.
- **Spray Painting Gun:** It is used to paint the surfaces efficiently, which works on the principle of powered air pressure.



AC or DC power supply machine.



Welding goggles were used to protect the artisan's eyes from the spark emitted during the welding process.

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Welding gun and cutting plier.



Scrap materials, primary materials for the craft.



Latex paints used for spray painting.



Spray painting gun.

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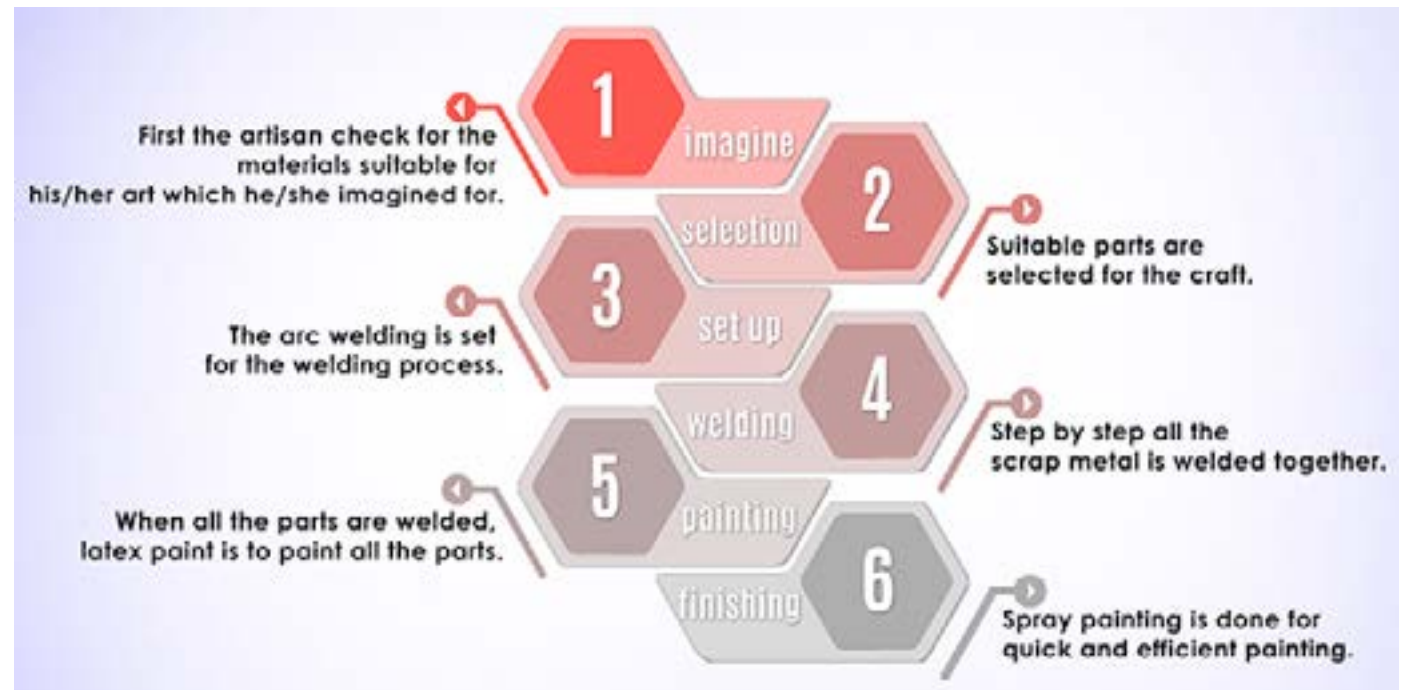
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Making Process

Firstly, the artisan gathers scrap metal pieces that suit his/her idea of sculpting. Once selected, these parts are arc welded step by step, at the end of which all the parts are fixed together. Then this semi-finished structure is painted with latex paint using a spray painting gun for a flawless finish.

Flow Chart:



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Artisan trying out the idea in his mind by assembling different scrap materials in a particular style.



Welding cycle pedal rod as a base to form the legs of the sculpture.

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The cycle pedal is welded to the rod to give a body to the statue.



The second pedal rod is welded, to complete the lower body.

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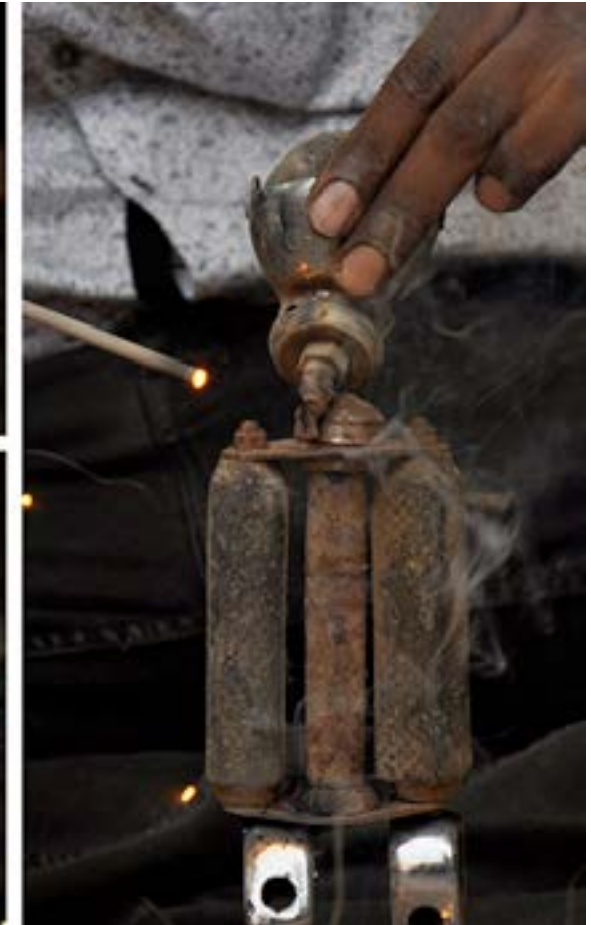
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Ball caster being used to make its head.

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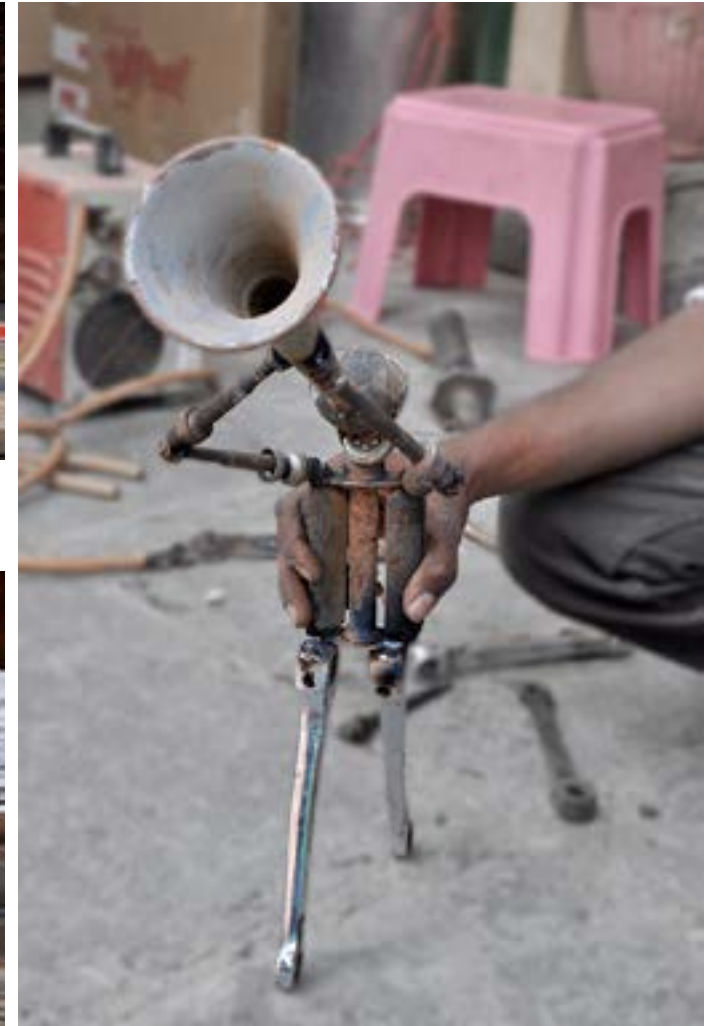
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Artisan checking whether the selected funnel blends well with the model under construction.



The funnel being welded to make a trumpet and some small iron rods to form its hands.



A rough statue of a musician playing the day trumpet is created with scrap metals.

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The statue is fitted with a flat base to support the structure.



The paints being mixed in the tank.



Spray painting is done to give the statue a final touch.

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Products

Scrap metal art only requires basic household tools, a welding machine, and an idea, rather than complex machinery or specialized tools. Here Mr. Balaji Vallal follows a pattern where the scrap metals are not cut or bent but welded together to make a shape out of it. This makes him stand out from other scrap metal sculptors. The time taken for completing a piece of art takes about a day's time to sometimes weeks depending on its size and pattern used. Sizes range from 1.5 feet to 5 feet or even more. This type of craft is often used for interior decor of a home or office.



Musician with trumpet.



A crane made with bike shock absorbers.

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Abstract style statue.



Statue of snow skiers.



Meera Bai statue in an abstract form.



Sculpture of a raging bull.

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A bull ready to strike towards a bullfighter.



Musicians with violins.



A scrap metal art of a musician with a flute.

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This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B. at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

You can get in touch with him at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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

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