

Shail Utsav: National Sculpture Camp at FOAP, AKTU

**Curated by
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Architecture and Sculpture have a symbiotic relationship. Since times immemorial, sculpture was used to embellish the walls and roofs of temples and churches. Nowadays the installations are a combination of sculpture and architectural space. Our Urban spaces need sculptures to animate them, to beautify them, eventually converting them from ‘spaces’ to ‘places’.

A sculpture camp, in collaboration with the LDA was organized at FOAP campus in Lucknow, where reputed sculptors from all over India participated. The sculptures that were created during this 10 day camp are permanently installed in the urban space at 1090 chowk in Lucknow as a place making exercise. The medium was Stones that were left over in the LDA sites and some were sponsored.

Avani Patel, Surat

Avani’s sculptures in stone imbibe a flow of feelings that is the hallmark of her work. The intangible smoothness of the waves, the flow of air, the holes in the sand made by crabs, the infinite fluidity of water can be witnessed in her work. In this work, her sculpture showcases the effect of the closeness of earth and moon. The tidal waves (jwarbhata) are etched on the stone in semi relief while the moon is like a crescent.

Nidhi Sabhaya, Ahmedabad

Nidhi likes to capture the minimalistic beauty of life forms in their very basic essence of line, texture, shadows, tones and layers. The expressions of the organicity are intuitively expressed through her work. There is almost always an untouched expression of the medium of stone that gives the rawness that is juxtaposed with the fineness of her input. Her work expresses balance in nature and life through three pieces of sandstone. The negative and positive spaces, through the juxtaposition of her pieces, express the theme of complementing each other and talk of harmony.

Pankaj Kumar, Gautam Budhnagar

Pankaj mostly works in multiple materials in sculpture. His forte is to highlight the contrast between two states in piece which he brings out through luminosity and colour. His work express his idea of nature through solid and textured surfaces. His work has a rhythmic flow, where all parts are seamlessly cohesive. The intricacy in carving makes the eye focus on the textural and the planar surfaces, making it very pleasant viewing.

Rajesh Kumar, New Delhi

Rajesh's sculptures are very evidently make the best of the inherent colour, texture and form of the stone. He brings out the varied finishes to make a balanced composition that has a fluid quality. There is a lot of maturity in his approach and technique. His work represents the symbol of infinite. There is a lot of fluidity in his style, where a material like stone looks malleable.

Santoo Kumar Chaubey, New Delhi

Santosh's sculptures portray an inherent physical balance between two parts, which are bifurcated by an imaginary line. The varied textures that he creates brings a softness to the hard rigidity of the medium. His work depicts two opposite aspects of nature. He depicts the cactus plant that is devoid of water and on top of it a cloud that carries water. There is a softness in the cloud and solidity in the cactus. He is able to put life in his creation through his technique.

Shailesh Mohan Ojha, Noida

Shailesh explores the intersection of material and meaning, using a diverse palette of mediums—including wood, stone, bronze, steel, and iron—to convey the complexities of love, peace, and the human experience. According to him, he draws inspiration from Buddhist ideology, emphasizing the journey of self-realization and the quest to uncover unknown realities. Through his sculptures and installations, the viewers reflect on their own experiences and the interconnectedness of their lives. His work in the camp depicts 'love' as a graffiti on a wall. It showcases through texture, holes, relief, the idea of 'love' in calligraphy. He has tried to replicate a ruined wall.

Girish Pandey, Lucknow

Girish believes that a strong philosophical thought process is the basis of his work. His sculptures revolve around a theme and focus on bringing out the idea through the lines and form of the medium. His work is a combination of sandstone and granite. He represents nature with half unopened bud that is juxtaposed with a dice of life. The flowing lines of the natural buds contrasts with the hand made dice, which is orthogonal.

Mukesh Verma, Lucknow

Mukesh's works in different media is more realistic. His work has a lifelike quality in terms of scale and reality. His work is made with mixed media, he has used sandstone and copper pipe. He has depicted nature with the concept of germination. How a seed comes out of land or soil to grow into a plant is depicted in his sculpture.

Ajay Kumar, Lucknow

Ajay's work is abstract sculptures in stone. His compositions have the connectedness with each component or aspect. There is an ease of the way the eye skims his work. His work depicts growth and the idea of the ling as a symbol of growth. Abstracted the idea of human face that stand tall as a totem of ancient origin.

Awadesh Kumar, Lucknow

Awadesh's creations have many scales at the same time that sometimes add the textures to the work. He mostly adds a focus outside the main piece to create an installation. His work has the quality of texturing the stone surface. The texture is created through clear geometrical check pattern with negative and positive. Its an abstract representation like an arch.

Dheeraj Yadav, Lucknow

Dheeraj is a national artist who dabbles in sculpture. He has created a palimpsest of the architecture college site and its ethos. The sandstone with iron rods jutting out create an illusion of an RCC column on which he has put a steel plate that is etched with the map of the campus.