



Vahanas

Sculptures by
Sunil Kumar Das

Vahanas

Sculptures by
Sunil Kumar Das

Kolkata

January 10th - January 21st, 2017

Delhi

February 4th - February 28th, 2017

online:
aakritiartgallery.com

KOLKATA:**Sales:**

Aman Bachhawat aman.chisel@gmail.com
+91 9874881111

Administration:

N.G. Rao admin@aakritiartgallery.com
+91 9830411115

Accounts:

Manoj Kumar Singh accounts@aakritiartgallery.com
+91 9830411119

Creative:

Sayan Paul webadmin@aakritiartgallery.com
+91 33 22895041

DELHI:**Administration:**

Pari Baishya delhi@aakritiartgallery.com
+91 9971961972

Published by: Priya & Vikram Bachhawat for
Aakriti Art Gallery Pvt Ltd

Printed by: CDC Printers Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata

Price: ₹ 450.00

© Aakriti Art Gallery Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata, 2016

All rights reserved. No part of this publication can be reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying & recording or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Vahanas

Looking at Sunil Kumar Das's highly skilled and intricately presented ensemble of small bi-material sculptures, a discerning viewer can justifiably ask, if monumentality be regarded a positive quality of sculpture in public space, then why should miniatures sculpture not be regarded as similarly important? Are miniature paintings not at par with large murals?

What a magnificent oeuvre of work Sunil has created that empathises with a certain unbearable state of being, albeit without rancor, and at the same time, one that discretely raises questions about the tradition of justification of such an unacceptable state of being in Indian art. Let us take a look.

Fatigued by the back-breaking load of the decamped exalted ride, a horse lies neighing with the weight of the saddle. A camel expectantly squats down with the load of the *howdah* for carrying the weight of some privileged rider yet to arrive. A turtle carries the load of a mallet that may be used for breaking its own shell. Such, however are not the only modes of the invisible load-assignees to punish the carriers. A blindfolded ruler carries the load of crown on the head. An eye-less head carries the load of graduation headgear on itself. A long-faced bureaucrat carries a *topee* on his head. A suppliant Bharata carries Rama's authority-bearing footwear. As a culmination of all kinds of load-bearing, a human head needs to be cooled with the load of an ice-bag on head. Or is it the bag of a meager reward? A porter of load has also to know that such load-bearing is, in fact, the nature's way. A snail has to carry its shelter on its back, at nobody's command. A pregnant pig carries her fetus. A crafty monkey humours himself by piggy-backing. And is it not empathy that makes human beings to load warm covers on sleeping pets to protect them on cold nights? Sunil seems to be interested in exposing an aspect of the situational irony of

existence, but does not want to make an emphatic statement. That is perhaps the reason why he adopts the strategy of humour. The humourous effect he achieves, by juxtaposing disparate types of object-images, in queer placements and postural stances, within built-up imagery. To sum up, his strategy, of making visual criticism not only of what he considers as an important aspect of an existential situation but also of concepts nurtured as tradition are, gently delirious. Amusement arises out of preposterous juxtapositions.

Sunil Kumar Das, the thoroughbred modern sculptor that he is, through this crop of his work, allegorically critiques the praxis centering around the idea of *vahanas*, in Indian iconography- a platform on which the majority of pre modern Indian sculpture stands. *Vahanas*, of Indian *pratimalakshmana-sastras*, are creatures which carry the loads of divine-icons and perform acts that glorify the divinities, without adding anything to their own reputation. This, to Sunil, is an existential irony.

Sunil Kumar Das has developed a visual idiom of combining two kinds of materials- stone and metal, worked out in two methods- carving and casting, giving out two tonal effects- of shining light and deepening darkness. He, however, has not tried to create any correspondence between animate and inanimate parts of images with the material used, method followed and chromatic effect achieved. He has used one material and method for animate and another for inanimate segments for each of his composite images. His aim has been to develop an effective visualinguistic means of showing duality as a significant fact of existence, as tragic contradiction, as well as an interpenetration of opposites – as Hegel would have held.

Pranab Ranjan Ray



Ref. No. SKD001
Nirab Sakhi
Bronze & Stone
20 x 12 x 5.5 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD002
Khudarth - I
Bronze & Stone
21 x 10 x 10 in
2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD003
Seriba - Sariban
Bronze & Stone
16 x 8.5 x 8.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD004
Ghatak - I
Bronze & Stone
17.7 x 9 x 7 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD005
Sarbasanto
Bronze & Stone
19.5 x 10.5 x 7 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD006
Snatak
Bronze & Stone
16 x 7.5 x 7.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD007
Ghatak - II
Bronze & Stone
18 x 8 x 7 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD008
Andha Raja
Bronze & Stone
16 x 8 x 8 in
2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD009
Bharat
Bronze & Stone
17 x 9 x 7 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD010
Ghatak - III
Bronze & Stone
18 x 12 x 12.5 in
2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD011
Hatasha
Bronze & Stone
37.5 x 18 x 12 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD012
Bisram - I
Bronze & Stone
19.5 x 29 x 14 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD013

Sonnash

Bronze & Stone

14 x 52 x 9 in

2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD014
Khudarthā - II
Bronze & Stone
18 x 8 x 4.5 in
2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD015
Srimoti - I
Bronze & Stone
19 x 10 x 9 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD016
Sainik
Bronze & Stone
17 x 9.5 x 9.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD017
Srimoti - II
Bronze & Stone
19.5 x 9 x 8 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD018
Nai Tai Kachho Thakle Kothay Pete
Bronze & Stone
16.5 x 10 x 8.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD019
Bisram - II
Bronze & Stone
21 x 9 x 4 in
2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD020
Bisram - III
Bronze & Stone
23 x 9.5 x 4 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD021
Vasoman - I
Bronze & Stone
20 x 11 x 5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD022
Vasoman - II
Bronze & Stone
20 x 6 x 9.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD023
Bisram - IV
Bronze & Stone
20 x 7.5 x 4 in
2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD024
Khudarthā - III
Bronze & Stone
19 x 7.5 x 7 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD025
Bisram - V
Bronze & Stone
18 x 8 x 5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD026
Vasoman - III
Bronze & Stone
23 x 9 x 8 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD027
Bisram - VI
Bronze & Stone
19 x 8 x 8 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD028
Bisram - VII
Bronze & Stone
10.5 x 20 x 7.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD029
Artanad - I
Bronze & Stone
21 x 10 x 9.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD030
Bisram - VIII
Bronze & Stone
19 x 9 x 3.5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD031
Bisram - IX
Bronze & Stone
19 x 9 x 5 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD032
Artanad - II
Bronze & Stone
8.5 x 21 x 10 in
2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD033

Bisram - X

Bronze & Stone

24 x 11 x 5 in

2012-2016



Ref. No. SKD034

Nandi

Bronze & Stone

21 x 13 x 5.5 in

2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD035
Goti - I
Bronze & Stone
18.5 x 16.5 x 8 in
2012-2016

Ref. No. SKD036

Goti - II

Bronze & Stone

17 x 11 x 11 in

2012-2016





Ref. No. SKD037
Ful Dani
Bronze & Stone
9.5 in Diya
2012-2016

Aakriti Art Gallery

12/3A, Hungerford Street
Kolkata-700 017

Phone: +91 33 22893027 | +91 33 22895041

Mobile: +91 9830411116

E-mail: kolkata@aaakritiartgallery.com

F-208/1 . Old M.B. Road, Lado Sarai
New Delhi 110030

Phone: +91 11 46130500

Mobile: +91 9971961972

E-mail: delhi@aaakritiartgallery.com

Web: www.aakritiartgallery.com