



SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

www.saarcculture.org

SAARC Sculpture Symposium 2018 – Pakistan

“Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it”

Michelangelo

1.0 BACKGROUND

Sculpture is an intricate branch of the visual arts and has the special feature of being a three - dimensional artform. It is created in stone, metal, ceramics, woods, fibre and mixed media. However, stone sculptures have survived the test of time along with metal and terracotta sculptures, which speak of history and of ancient cultures. With additive and subtractive processes as two basic techniques in sculpture the South Asian art has reflected through the ages, the cultural structure of beliefs, aesthetic preferences and social systems. The history of Asian art can be traced back to the ‘Indus Valley’ or ‘Harappan’ Civilization belonging to around 2300 B.C. in the present Pakistan. This ancient civilization on the banks of the river Indus has contributed to building cities which included making of roads, fire-burnt bricks, building public buildings, citadels and houses. ¹ With expertise in pottery, terracotta figurines and jewellery making, the Indus Valley civilization has been the forerunner in contributing sculptures. The bronze image of the dancing girl of four inches in height exhibits a rare posture and movement with a prominent place in the history of sculpture along with the bust from Mohenjo-Daro, the many terracotta toys, female figurines, torsos and pottery.²

Proceeding through the artistic pages of history and the many contributions of the SAARC Member States to the development of the art of sculpture, the present symposium offers to open a dialogue between the sculptors and their art, creating a platform for interchanging of ideas, opinions and techniques. This symposium focuses on the creating of sculptures along with a workshop and discussion with experts in the field with interactive sessions.

¹ Honour, Hugh, and Fleming, John, A World History of Art, Laurence King Publishing, 2005, p – part one

² Nandagopal, Choodamani, Arts and Crafts of Indus Civilization (provincial Art), Aryan Books International, 2006

Sculpture is one of the most enduring forms of fine art known to man and has played a major role in the evolution of cultures. The sculptors nominated from the SAARC Member States will work on sculptures based on the theme of 'Sculpture Symposium - A Sojourn and Synergy'. Sculptures could be expressed as free standing dimensional images, that give a 360-degree view to give an unique art experience, whilst high and low relief sculptural panels can add a narrative essence to the artistic expression. With the freedom to choose the medium of sculpture, the artists can find themselves involved in bringing to form the sculpture based on the theme of 'Synergy', and altogether could add to the unity and sovereignty of oneness in diversity.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- I. To provide opportunities on an international platform for the creation of sculpture that would highlight the rich characteristics of cultural diversity within the SAARC Member States in keeping with the SAARC Agenda for Culture.
- II. To educate and share among the public the rich and varied techniques and the potential for exploring Sculpture in the SAARC Region, and be relevant to these contemporary times.
- III. To support, encourage and stimulate talent and artistry in sculpture and share this ability within a public forum with the aim of promoting cultural harmony.
- IV. To encourage tolerance, strengthen understanding and build intercultural bridges through the medium of sculpture.
- V. To showcase culture, varied talents and unite a multitude of sculptor artistes from the SAARC Member States
- VI. To promote the cultural traditions and encourage an appreciation and enthusiasm for intercultural sculpture and traditions of artistry within the SAARC Region.

3.0 PROGRAMME

The SAARC Cultural Centre proposes that the SAARC Sculpture Symposium 2018 will be held for approximately four (4) days, in an accessible, vibrant and inspirational city in the host Member State of Pakistan.

- I. **Working on site:** The Artists will have an opportunity to work on site on the first and second day, they will have an opportunity to create one or two pieces of art, whilst focusing on the overall theme of 'Synergy'.
- II. **Interactive Workshop:** Throughout the Sculpture Symposium, there will be an open forum for artists to interact with each other, observe and learn. It will also be an opportunity for tourists and the general public to talk to the Artists. On the third day of the Sculpture Symposium there will be an interactive workshop for the Sculptors to exchange ideas and further enhance the quality of work of Artists in the SAARC Region.
- III. **A Piece of Artistic Unity:** In addition, on the third day of the SAARC Sculpture Symposium, the Artists will be given time to work together on one joint piece of art, if possible with an equal contribution from each Member State. This will be a challenge for the Artists and will also encourage team work and leadership skills for the young sculptors of the Region. Adopting different forms, and working together with unifying and different shapes, sizes, combinations and creativity will be an unusual and unique experience and will be a highlight of the Sculpture Symposium. At the conclusion of the Programme, the final collaborative sculpture will have pride of place and be displayed in an appropriate manner at the SAARC Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka as a testament to the joint artistry of the Region.

4.0 PARTICIPANTS

All Member States are invited to nominate a maximum of four Artists. The Host Member State of Pakistan, is invited to nominate a maximum of ten Artists.

The Honoured Member States are respectfully requested to take into consideration the following guidelines when nominating Participants for this Programme:

- I. The nominated Artists to be prominent or upcoming Artists;
- II. With preferably a balance of gender amongst the nominated Artists, representing a combination of male and female Artists;
- III. The nominated Artists, if at all possible, could represent diverse areas of the art of sculpture.

5.0 VENUE OF THE PROGRAMME

The SAARC Sculpture Symposium 2018 will take place at a suitable location, as recommended by the Host Member State.

6.0 DATES FOR THE SAARC SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM 2018

As per discussions at the 9th Governing Board of the SAARC Cultural Centre and the 54th Programming Committee of the SAARC, it is suggested that the SAARC Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings 2018 should be conducted for a period of four days. **It is proposed the Programme will take place during the second week of November 2018.**