

Artform: Cement Relief Mural

Cement relief mural is a unique and intricate art form that involves creating three-dimensional images on flat surfaces using cement. This technique requires a high level of skill and precision, as the artist must carefully manipulate the cement to achieve the desired shapes and textures. Cement, being a durable and versatile medium, allows for the creation of detailed and enduring artworks that can withstand the test of time and environmental factors.

The process begins with the preparation of the surface, followed by the application of a base layer of cement. The artist then adds successive layers, meticulously sculpting and carving each one to form the relief image. Tools such as trowels, knives, and brushes are used to refine the details, creating depth and realism in the artwork. Once the relief is complete, the mural may be painted or left in its natural cement color, depending on the desired aesthetic effect.

Cement relief murals are often used to adorn public spaces, buildings, and monuments, adding artistic value and historical significance to their surroundings. They serve as a powerful medium for storytelling, preserving cultural heritage, and celebrating historical events and figures. This art form combines the elements of sculpture and painting, resulting in a visually captivating and texturally rich masterpiece that engages viewers on multiple sensory levels.

Artwork: "World Heritage Sites"

The "World Heritage Sites" mural is a magnificent representation of India's rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage. Created by a team of skilled artists from Tripura, this cement relief mural showcases some of the most renowned UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. The mural is a testament to the country's diverse and vibrant heritage, capturing the essence and grandeur of each site with remarkable precision and artistic flair.

The mural features seven iconic sites: Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra, Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh, Unakoti in Tripura, Hampi in Karnataka, Konark Sun Temple in Odisha, and Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu. Each site is intricately depicted, highlighting its unique architectural and cultural significance. The Ajanta and Ellora Caves are renowned for their ancient rock-cut temples and monasteries, adorned with exquisite sculptures and paintings. Sanchi, with its Great Stupa, is a symbol of Buddhist heritage and ancient Indian architecture. Unakoti, a lesser-known yet captivating site, boasts impressive rock carvings and sculptures.

Hampi, once the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, is depicted with its sprawling ruins and majestic temples. The Konark Sun Temple, an architectural marvel, stands as a testament to the artistic genius of the artisans of Odisha.

Mahabalipuram, with its rock-cut temples and sculptures, reflects the rich maritime history and artistic traditions of Tamil Nadu. The mural brings these sites to life, capturing their intricate details and historical essence.

The precision of execution and the artistic expertise involved in creating this mural add to its aesthetic value, making it a captivating piece of art. It not only celebrates India's heritage but also serves as a visual narrative, educating viewers about the significance and beauty of these World Heritage Sites.

Artist: Sankar Rudra Paul

Sankar Rudra Paul, the principal coordinator of this project, hails from Agartala, Tripura. A talented freelance artist, he graduated in visual art from the Government College of Art & Craft, Agartala. Specializing in terracotta work and cement relief mural painting, Sankar has established himself as an expert in these fields. His artistic journey is marked by participation in numerous national workshops and art exhibitions, including those organized by the prestigious Lalit Kala Akademi.

Sankar's expertise in cement relief murals is evident in the "World Heritage Sites" mural, where his meticulous attention to detail and deep understanding of the medium shine through. His ability to capture the essence of India's heritage sites and translate them into a three-dimensional form is a testament to his skill and dedication as an artist. Sankar's work not only reflects his technical prowess but also his passion for preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage.

Through his art, Sankar Rudra Paul continues to inspire and engage audiences, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of Indian art. His commitment to his craft and his innovative approach to traditional art forms make him a distinguished and respected figure in the contemporary art scene.

Location: Sky Walk ITO; Railway Underpass ITO; Supreme Court Metro Station

Team Members: Debabrata Bhattacharya, Basu Debnath, Rupa Nandi Ghosh, Santa Deb, Rajesh Deb, Rajesh Sinha, Supriya Datta, Pritam Debnath, Subham Saha, Madhuri Dey

