

SACH Newsletter

Vol.1, No.1. Imphal, October 2009.

Newsletter of the Sharma Arts & Crafts House (SACH)

It has been the endeavour of the Sharma Arts & Crafts House (SACH), located at Khongman Zone 3-East in Imphal East District of Manipur, to promote arts and crafts in the State and elsewhere, with emphasis on the revitalization of the traditional painting of Manipur, while at the same time encouraging young artists and artisans towards innovative entrepreneurship in the arts and crafts.

SACH is today one of the leading institutions of art in the region, and its activities are ever expanding covering both training programs and productions. Some of SACH's activities are providing training to young artists and artisans, organizing workshops on both traditional painting and contemporary art forms, production and installation of busts and statues of well known personalities in Manipur and other places, providing of free studio and foundry facilities to interested and aspiring young artists, marketing of art and craft products such as paintings, sculptures, rug dolls, etc., and organization of exhibitions.

SACH is a registered Trust and is managed by a Board of Trustees which advises on its day-to-day activities and other periodical programs. The SACH complex at Khongman promises to become one of the leading centres of art and craft activities in North East India.

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A Khamba-Thoibi painting by Guru Wahengbam Ibobi Singh; a product of the Workshop on Master Traditional Artists held at SACH complex from March 30-April 5, 2008.

SACH in the forefront

In the past years, SACH had undertaken different activities at the State and regional levels which do merit mention. SACH artists B.Banamali Sharma and B.Mahendra Sharma along with their work force had produced and installed several statues and busts of well known figures of Manipur in various locations of the State and elsewhere. Some of the art works include busts of Sir Churachand Maharajah, Janneta Hijam Irabot, Mahakabi Angalhal, Arambam Samarendra, and statues of Thangal General, Janneta Hijam Irabot among others. SACH undertook fibre glass mural at Manipur State Museum and ceramic mural at the INA Memorial Museum, Moirang. SACH also built the prototype of Kanglasha at the Kangla in Imphal. These are the distinctions of SACH ■



Pics: Salam Rajesh

A week-long Workshop on Master Traditional Painters of Manipur was held from March 30 till April 5, 2008 at the SACH complex in collaboration with The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi. Seen in the photo (right to left) are Guru Brahmacharimayum Amusana Sharma, Guru Wahengbam Ibobi Singh and Guru Gurumayum Iboiyaima Sharma.

SACH Programs during 2007-2009

A. Training programs

1. Training program on Traditional Painting and Sculpture

A five-month long training program on 'Traditional Painting and Sculpture' was held at SACH complex under the Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata from November 26, 2006 till April 28, 2007, and another four-month training from August 15 - November 16, 2007.



Pics: SACH

The inaugural function of the training program on Traditional Painting & Sculpture underway at SACH complex.

2. Papier Mache Production Training program

A two-month long Papier Mache Production Training program under SACH was held at its complex from November 15, 2007 till January 15, 2008.

3. Training Course on Traditional Painting/Rug Dolls

A two-month long Training Course on Traditional Painting and Rug Dolls under SACH was held at its complex between January-March, 2008.



Pics: SACH

Trainees at the Rug doll training course.

B. Workshops

1. Traditional Painters' Meet cum Workshop

Four traditional painters, **Guru Brahmacharimayum Amusana Sharma**, Khongman; **Guru Gurumayum Iboyaima Sharma**, Thambalkhong; **Guru Wahengbam Iboji Singh** and **Poujarui Thanmei**,

Keisamthong Kabui Khul were facilitated on the inaugural function of the five day Traditional Painters' Meet cum Workshop held at the Manipur State Museum, Imphal from July 24 - 28, 2007 under the aegis of The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.

Prof. Thoidingjam Tombi Singh, Rashtriya Lalit Kala Akademi awardee graced the inaugural function as Chief Guest. Shri Pratapanand Jha, Director, Cultural Informatics, IGNCIA and Dr. Molly Kausal, Head of Department, JS Division, IGNCIA attended the function as Guests of Honour. Dr. Kh. Sarojini Devi, Director, Art & Culture, Manipur presided over the function.



Pics: SACH

Guru B. Amusana Sharma at work during the Traditional Painters' Meet cum Workshop.



Pics: SACH

Children watching a traditional *Chini-chaphu* artisan at work during the workshop on traditional dolls & toys.



Guru B. Amusana Sharma demonstrating his art to participants of the workshop on traditional dolls & toys.

2. Workshop on Traditional Dolls & Toys

A three-day Workshop on Traditional Dolls & Toys of Manipur was held at the SACH complex in collaboration with The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi and the Manipur Film Development Corporation Limited from December 8-10, 2007.

3. Workshop on Master Traditional Painters

A week-long Workshop on Master Traditional Painters' Meet was held at the SACH complex in collaboration with The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi and the Manipur Film Development Corporation Limited from March 30 till April 5, 2008. Three traditional painters, namely, Guru Brahmacharimayum Amusana Sharma, Khongman; Guru Gurumayum Iboyaima Sharma, Thambalkhong and Guru Wahengbam Ibobi Singh participated in the workshop.



Pics: SACH

Radha-Krishna Rug dolls



Rug dolls of *Meitei pung* drummers



Pics: SACH

Group photograph of officials and participants of the Workshop on Traditional Dolls & Toys of Manipur.



A pig toy cast in bronze



A dog toy cast in bronze

C. Exhibitions

1. Exhibition of Contemporary Sculpture

An exhibition of contemporary sculptures of Manipur was held at the SACH open air gallery for five days from December 7-11, 2007. The exhibits included sculptures in metal, wood and other assorted material.

Pics: Salam Rajesh



Exhibition of contemporary sculptures at the SACH Open Air Gallery.



Pics: Salam Rajesh

An exhibit at the Open Air Gallery of SACH.



Exhibits at the Open Air Gallery of SACH.

Pics: SACH



Guests viewing the exhibition of contemporary sculptures at the SACH Open Air Gallery.



An exhibit at the Open Air Gallery of SACH.

D. Production & Installation of Statues & Busts of prominent personalities of Manipur

1. Statue of Bir Tikendrajit at Cachar, Assam (1999).
2. Statue of Mahakavi Angahal at Manipur University (2005).
3. Statues of Jananeta Hijam Irabot at (i) Silchar, Assam (2004), (ii) Manipur University (2008), and (ii) Dharmanagar, Tripura (2008).
4. Statue of Thangal General at Imphal (2009).
5. Presently undertaking statue of Maharajah Gambhir Singh to be installed at the Maharajah Gambhir Singh Samadhi at Canchipur, Imphal.



Bust of Bir Tikendrajit



**Bust of Netaji Subhash
Chandra Bose**



**Bust of Churachand Maharajah
at C.C.Higher Sec. School.**



**Statue of Jananeta Hijam Irabot at
Dharmanagar (Tripura)**



**Artist B. Mahendra Sharma at work at
the SACH studio.**



Bust of Mahakavi Angahal

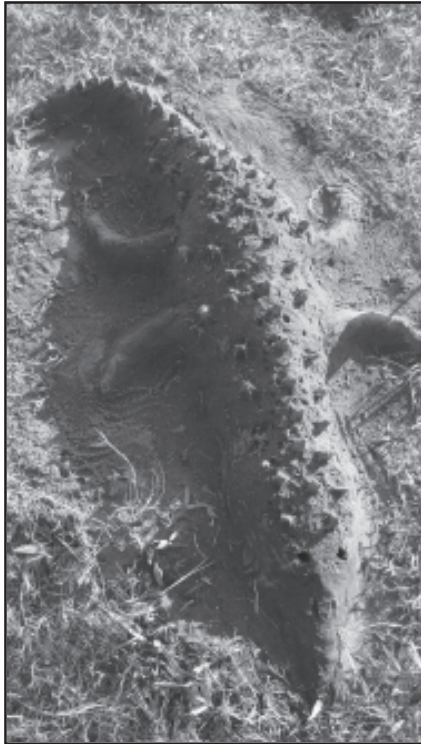


Bust of Arambam Samarendra

E. Other Activities

1. 1st State-level Sand Art Congregation

SACH in collaboration with the KHSC, Imphal organized the first ever 1st State-level Sand Art Congregation at its complex on February 1, 2009.



Pics: Salam Rajesh

One of the entries at the 1st State-level Sand Art Congregation held at SACH complex.

2. Felicitation of Artists

SACH felicitated seven artists, two from Assam and five from Manipur, by providing free studio and foundry facilities at the SACH studio during 2007.

3. Mural at Manipur State Museum

SACH team successfully executed mural of freedom fighters on the outer facade of Manipur State Museum in Imphal.

4. Prototype of Kanglasha

SACH team constructed the prototype of *Kanglasha* at the Imphal Kangla during 2008 in recreating the original piece destroyed by the British forces in 1891.



Pics: SACH

B.Banamali Sharma, MD, SACH speaking at the closing function of the 1st State-level Sand Art Congregation at the SACH complex.



Pics: SACH

Mural of freedom fighters at the Manipur State Museum in Imphal.



Pics: SACH

Prototype of Kanglasha (at left) constructed by SACH at the Kangla Fort in Imphal.

6. Shanti Doot

SACH is in the process of implementing a monumental art work titled as '*Shanti Doot* (Messenger of Peace)' at its spacious Open Air Gallery. The art work, which is in the form of a traditional Manipuri doll and to be 45 feet in height when completed, will have art pieces produced by various artists from Manipur and elsewhere on its entire body. There will also be a mini exhibit room inside the doll. The art work will be of a unique nature and the first of its kind in the region.

7. Participation of SACH artists in Workshops, Training camps

Artists nominated by SACH participated in various activities during 2009, some of which are :

- Eastern Region Bronze Casting Workshop at Kolkata, organized by the Rashtriya Lalit Kala Akademi (2009).
- Eastern Region Ceramics Workshop at Kolkata, organized by the Rashtriya Lalit Kala Akademi (2009).
- Artists' Workshop at Agartala, Tripura (2009).
- Traditional Painters' Camp of the Eastern Region held at the Artists' Workshop cum Dormitory of the Department of Art & Culture, Manipur from October 25-28, 2009. The camp was organized by the Department and the North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur.

8. Book on Arts & Crafts of Manipur

A book titled as '*Manipurda Laiyekpa Amasung Shaba* (Arts & Crafts of Manipur)' is being developed by B.Mahendra Sharma as an individual project of SACH. The book contains works of arts and crafts by various traditional and contemporary artists and sculptors of Manipur. The book is slated to be published soon.



Mahendra

9. Donations to BBCS. SACH Museum of Arts & Crafts

The following individuals donated art objects to the BBCS. Sach Museum of Arts & Crafts for permanent display at the museum :



Pics: SACH

Governor S.S.Sidhu facilitates Guru B.Amusana Sharma
The former Governor of Manipur, Shri S.S.Sidhu facilitated Master Traditional Painter Guru Brahmacharimayum Amusana Sharma as Fellow of the Manipur State Kala Akademi in a memorable function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy auditorium in 2008.

- Dr.K.Sobita Devi, Joint Director, Art & Culture, Manipur donated 16 moulded designs of Paphal (motifs of the deity Lainingthou Pakhangba worshipped by the Meiteis).
- Shri B.Mahendra Sharma donated 11 paintings of Master Traditional Painter Guru Brahmacharimayum Amusana Sharma.

Shanti Doot



Pics: SACH

The Sharma Arts & Crafts House (SACH) is today a destination for art lovers visiting Manipur. Several domestic and foreign visitors had dropped in at the workplace of SACH to interact with the artists working here and to appreciate the art works produced by them. Seen in the photograph are visitors from the United States of America, appreciating ingeniously designed trophies with motifs of *Kanglasha* and *Paphal*. The former Governor of Manipur, Shri O.N. Shrivastava was also a frequent visitor to the SACH studios. Various visiting artists from other States had availed of the facilities provided by SACH to work independently, producing paintings, sculptures and wood works that had been showcased at regional and national levels.

SACH (Sharma Arts & Crafts House)

A premier house of fine arts and crafts in the region

Specializes in Statue and Creative Sculpture, Traditional and Creative Painting, Designing and Fabrication Work in medias of Bronze, Stone, Ceramic, Papier-mache, Fibreglass, Terracotta, Cast Iron and Aluminium.

Facilitates aspiring artists in the following ways :

- * SACH is engaged in nourishing young and talented artists.
- * SACH provides free studio facilities and working space to artists for non-commercial purposes.
- * SACH provides studio with foundry facilities and working space for commercial works on payment.
- * SACH gives training to youth on various skills in traditional painting and allied crafts.
- * SACH provides space for exhibition for artists free of cost at the SACH complex.
- * SACH promotes local craftsmen in inventory works, and also sell their products.
- * SACH sells traditional paintings, dolls and toys.

Organizes various collaborative programs :

- * Metal casting workshop.
- * Local doll and toy making workshop.
- * Traditional painting workshop.
- * Traditional wood carving workshop.
- * Training programs for young artists and artisans in Rug dolls, toys and traditional painting.

Obituary



The Board of Trustees, staff and workers of the Sharma Arts & Crafts House (SACH) express deep grief and sorrow at the demise of Master Traditional Painter Guru Wahengbam Ibohi Singh on October 19, 2009. His death leaves a void in the realm of traditional painting, an asset of Manipur's rich cultural heritage.

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