



SACH Newsletter

Vol.2, No.1. Imphal, January 2012.

Newsletter of the Sharma Arts & Crafts House (SACH)

The Government of Manipur entrusted SACH with the responsibility of designing and implementing the mural on the ceiling of the impressive dome of the newly constructed Manipur Legislative Assembly building, and of implementing a sculpture piece titled as 'Atithi Seva' (seen in the photograph on the right). SACH completed both assignments successfully well in time, living up to its reputation. The Atithi Seva sculpture is a re-modelling of the original sculpture piece in the old Assembly complex.



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Editor's note: Beginning from this issue, SACH Newsletter will carry a regular page featuring life and works of local artists, in highlighting the contributions made by contemporary artists. The content are extracts from the unpublished book on contemporary art and artists of Manipur being compiled by B.Mahendra Sharma, Trustee, SACH.



Bronze statue of Maharaja Gambhir Singh, developed and installed by SACH at the Maharaja's samadhi at Canchipur.

SACH Programs during 2010-2011

NSD Children's Theatre Workshop

The National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi in collaboration with SACH held a month-long theatre workshop (13th May - 13th June, 2010) for children at the SACH cultural complex under the supervision of Salim Arif from Mumbai.

The centre-piece of the workshop was the production of a play 'Shantigee Shayon'. It is an interesting culmination of a rather peculiar tie-up between NSD, a national institution of theatre, and SACH, an institution of visual arts. Perhaps it was NSD's year for greener pastures that brought SACH into the theatre scenerio, quite out of way of its usual activity of murals, painting, sculpture, wood carving, ceramics and clay modelling. Nonetheless, it was a challenging task for all those at SACH to engage in the month-long children's theatre workshop which NSD had entrusted to SACH in full confidence and zeal. The response from the children participating at the workshop, with full support of their parents, was overwhelming. They learnt dance, martial arts, clay modelling, singing, meditation and theatre in one go. The dark monsoon clouds hovering overhead, the incessant rain and the social turmoil in the State did not detered the enthusiasm of the children. They were one in their play, learning the ropes together.

The message of the play is very much relevant to us all - "We want peace. Let us shun violence and lead the life of peaceful co-existence".

Director's note : "The purpose of a workshop with children is to provide them with an opportunity to explore aptitude in areas which generally have little or no space in their regular academic curriculum. The month long exploration with exposure to acting, dance, music, visual and plastic arts inculcates awareness about performing arts in them besides generating passionate interest in Theatre as a composite art form.

The purpose of the workshop is not to create actors, dancers. It is the use of theatre as a medium or tool of engaging the faculties of the youngsters which makes these workshops quite relevant in their overall growth. It stimulates their young curious minds to work in a non formal environment. The presentation of a play at the culmination of these four weeks provides an added incentive for these children to be on stage in a performance situation. The ability to work in a team as responsible individuals becomes an important part of learning for these participants".



Pics: SACH

School children participating at the NSD Children's Theatre Workshop at SACH cultural complex.

Cast

King Bhagyachandra - Th.Suezmac Singh
Rajeshore, King of Tekhao - B.Puneshor Sharma
Queen of Tekhao - Pritica Longjam
Bimbavati - Priyanka
Ministers - Abhishek, Saratchandra, Thomas, Deveshore, Jackson, Bhuvan
Sena - Prabin, Krishna
Soldiers - Chonjon, Grinny, Alvish, Angamba, Laiyumba, Saphaba, Ronaldo, Dikson
Song group - Donna, Bidyalaxmi, Princee, Ronibala, Deeparani, Priti, Maxy, Priyanka, Meghna, Valentina, Casper, Leima, Bonita, Mrinalini, Priya.
Krishna - Lianda Devi
Raas group (1) - Lianda, Princee, Meghna, Mrinalini, Bidyalaxmi, Ronibala
Raas group (2) - Priyanka, Princee, Meghna, Casper, Bidyalaxmi, Ronibala, Maxy
Awa-Meitei - Suezmac, Bhuvan, Pravin, Jackson, Chonjon, Grinny, Alvish, Angamba, Loiyumba, Saphaba, Ronaldo, Dikson
Old woman - Ronibala
Messenger - Abhishek
Brahman - Saratchandra
Elephant - Deveshor, Thomas, Abishek.

Credits

Dr.M.Priyobarta Singh - Script
 B.Gopiramona Sharma - Dance
 T.Dwijamani Sharma - Music
 Anneshwori Devi - Playback singing
 N.Rajen Singh - Martial Arts
 L.Sharat Singh - Costume
 Ibochouba Singh - Lights
 I.Bidyarani Devi - Stage Manager
 H.Jiten - Production Manager



MLA Dr.Ratan Kumar lighting the inauguration lamp.

SACH organized a Festival of Arts & Crafts at its sprawling cultural complex for three days during January 20-22, 2010. The Festival showcased a mix of events - experimental art by Rabin Bar; exhibition of traditional crafts; and folk art performances.



Chief Guest Dr.Ratan Kumar inspecting the crafts stalls at the festival.



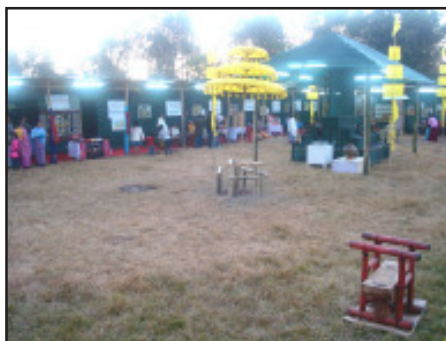
Child artistes performing Khubak-ishei at the opening function of the festival.

pics: Salam Rajesh

SACH Festival of Arts & Crafts 2010



Craftspersons at the festival (L-R) Shamee Lanmee, Potloi & Andro pottery.



A view of the Festival ground.



Artist Rabin Bar sketching a free-hand portrait of Tourism Minister TN Haokip during the Festival.



Artist Rabin Bar (left) presenting the sketch to Tourism Minister TN Haokip (at right).

Profile

Guru Mangsidam Kalachand Singh

Guru Mangsidam Kalachand Singh (born 1894) is one of the better known disciples of pioneering Manipuri artist, Ningthoujam Bhadra Singh - the court painter in the royal court of Sir Churachand Maharaja, K.C.S.I. (1891-1941 A.D.). Born to Mangsidam Angangmacha Singh and Nongmaithem Ningol Chaobi (Ngangbi) Devi, Kalachand inherited his passion for art from his father, Angangmacha who taught Bhadra. It is said that Maharaja Chandrakirti (1850-1886) rewarded Angangmacha handsomely when the latter painted an impressive presentation of the King's Jilla Durbar procession with the King riding on an elaborately decorated Howdah astride two elephants.

Guru Kalachand nurtured his art under the able guidance of Bhadra. He painted themes on Hindu mythology, and his paintings decorated the panels of local mandaps. He also painted themes from the epic Khamba-Thoibi of Moirang. One of his paintings titled as 'Karamochon' (depicting the release of Vasudev and Devaki from prison) is said to have won first prize at a fair called 'Policelane Mela' during 1934-35.

Guru Kalachand assisted his teacher, Ningthoujam Bhadra, in painting themes from the epic Khamba-Thoibi on the four inner walls of Thangjing temple at Moirang, which was then built of mud walls and thatch-roofed. Later, when the temple was re-constructed with brick walls, Kalachand again painted on its four walls - depicting tales of Khamba, the orphan, and Thoibi, the princess of Moirang.



Guru Mangsidam Kalachand (seated) with his disciples.



Painting depicting Radha-Krishna with Gopis.

Recalling the times when he accompanied his teacher, Mangsidam Kalachand to Moirang, Guru Amusana told that his guru said to him, "Amubi, let us paint the mortals in the form of divine beings". And thus it was that the humans in the paintings of Thangjing temple assumed a sense of divinity.

Guru Kalachand painted themes on Manipuri culture for the then Political Agent, Mr. Maxwel. Some of the paintings were despatched to London. He painted textile designs and patterns for Jelli Memsahab, the Political Agent's wife. It is said that once Mr. Maxwel asked him to paint a bunch of Blue Vanda orchids. Kalachand fetched a bunch of Blue Vanda orchid that were flowering at his guru's home, and painted an exact likeness. When he showed it to Mr. Maxwel, the Political Agent kept looking at him and back to the painting for some time in disbelief. When Kalachand took out his brush and paint asking if he could make corrections, the Saheb was so pleased that he gave Kalachand ten rupees as his sense of appreciation for the painting. That was the level of his art. The sense of beauty and aesthetics captured on canvas won him several admirers, including the royalty and state leaders of that time.

Profile

Guru Brahmacharimayum Amusana Sharma

Master Traditional Painter Guru Brahmacharimayum Amusana Sharma (born October 11, 1919) grew up with art as his first love. His was a struggle all the way up, edged between the need to look after his family and his yearning to learn art. His life took a turn when in 1939 he happened to see Shree Mangsidam Kalachand Singh, a disciple of pioneering Manipuri artist Ningthoujam Bhadra Singh, painting a portrait of the late Queen Mother Moirangthem Chanu Lalita Manjuri Devi at the royal palace. Since that day onwards and till the death of his guru, Guru Amusana learnt the art of painting and wood sculpture from the master.



B.Amusana Sharma carving an idol from wood.

He was 17 years of age when Guru Amusana first took up the brush. In 1956, at the behest of the Moirang authorities, he took up the major assignment of painting a series of episodes depicting the epic tale of Khamba-Thoibi on the inner four walls of the Thangjing temple at Moirang under the guidance of Guru Kalachand. He was assisted by Modhu Singh of Wabagai Awang Leikai and other artists. In 1963, at the behest of the Queen Mother, Guru Amusana took up another major assignment of drawing 364 motifs of the sacred Paphal which was in the custody of the Pandit Loishang. To this date, Guru Amusana has several significant works of art to his credit.

Guru Amusana Sharma was honoured by Manipur State Kala Akademi as a Fellow in 2008. He was facilitated on the inaugural function of the 5-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. He was honoured with respect at a week-long Workshop on Master Traditional Painters' Meet which was held at the SACH Cultural Complex by The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi in collaboration with the Manipur Film Development Corporation Limited from March 30 till April 5, 2008.



Guru B. Amusana Sharma



Brahmacharimayum Ongbi Thambalngoubi Devi



Former Manipur Governor Dr.S.S.Sidhu conferring state award to B.Amusana Sharma.



A painting of Ningel village by B.Amusana Sharma.

Activities

SACH artists and workers engaged in various assignments during 2010-2011. Social worker Thongam Bishwajit of Thongju Assembly Constituency partially supported the construction of the RCC base for SACH's monumental sculpture piece 'Shanti Doot'. SACH also developed and installed statues of Meira Paibi (women social activists) which were installed at the Lamyamba Arambam Samarendra memorial complex at Salangthong in Imphal East District; a life-size statue of the Manipur king, Maharajah Gambhir Singh which was installed at the Manipur University complex at Canchipur, Imphal West District; and a prototype of the Shree Shree Govindajee temple cast in fibre glass and installed at the Sai Baba complex in Bangalore.



Construction of the base for 'Shanti Doot' under progress with support from social worker Thongam Bishwajit of Thonju A/C at the SACH cultural complex.



Three larger-than-life statues of Meira Paibi were developed by SACH and installed at Salangthong in Imphal East District.



Statue of Maharajah Gambhir Singh installed at Manipur University complex, Canchipur.

Pics: SACH



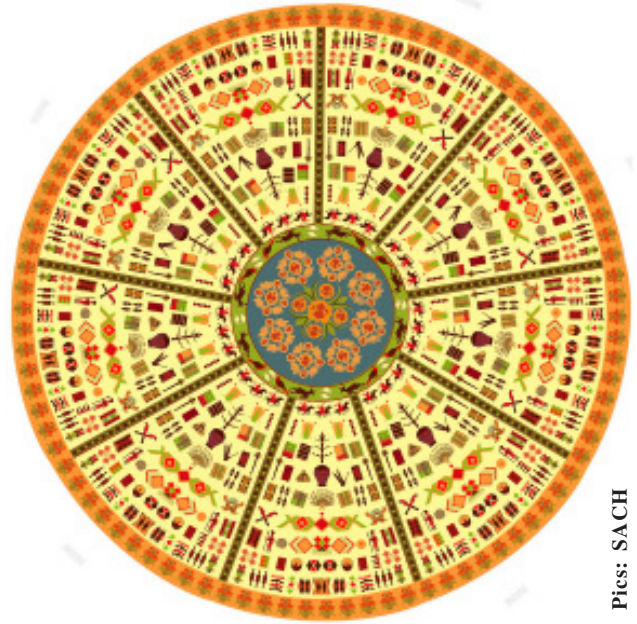
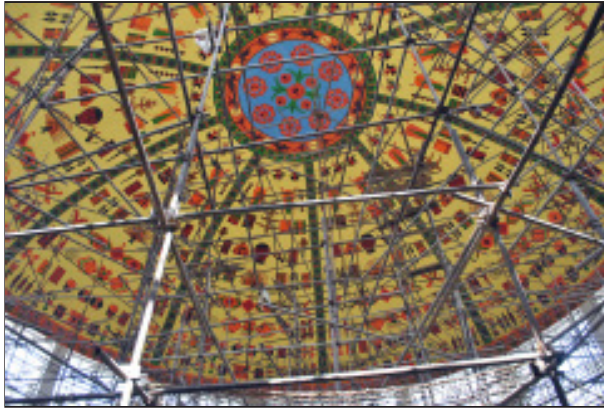
New workshop of SACH under construction.



Prototype of Shree Shree Govindajee Temple constructed by SACH and installed at Bangalore.

HIGHLIGHT

The interior of the Dome of the newly inaugurated Manipur Legislative Assembly building at Chingmeirong in Imphal was designed, developed and drawn by several local artists under the supervision of lead artist B.Banamali Sharma of the Sharma Arts & Crafts House (SACH; Khongman Zone 3-E, Imphal, Manipur; www.sach-manipur.com).



Credits

Chief Consultant

Mutua Bahadur, Mutua Museum

Consultants

Y. Gyaneshwar Singh, TMRC

K. Tejmani Sharma, SACH

Dr. B. Ruma Sharma, Associate Professor, Dept. of Fine Arts, Assam University, Silchar.

Assistant Artist

R.K. Thambalsana Singh

Graphics

H. Premkumar Singh

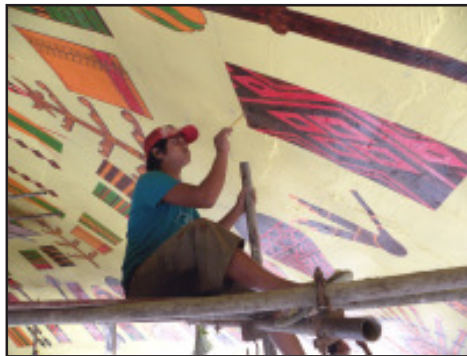
Graphics Assistant

Ng. Suchitra Devi

Technical Assistants

K. Kishore Kumar

G. Binao Thakur Sharma



(Clockwise: An artist working on a textile motif, the completed decoration design on the interior of the Dome, and the design conceptualized and developed by SACH)

The decoration design of the interior of Dome is divided into ten portions. The centre piece as seen in the layout above, and the corresponding nine panels around it represent the geographic situation of Manipur and of the various ethnic communities residing in different locations of the State. The centre of the design features floral motif of the orchid. The nine panels, each of which measures 26 feet in length, are painted in oil with motifs representative of the culture, custom and tradition of the ethnic communities of Manipur. The decoration design of the dome was conceptualized and developed by artist B.Banamali Sharma.



Reception of the artists team who worked at the decoration design of interior of Dome of Manipur Assembly building.



Guru B. Amusana Sharma (Founder, SACH), K. Tejmani Sharma (Chairman, SACH) and artist B. Banamali Sharma (L-R) at the reception.

The Manipur Tourism Department entrusted SACH with the big responsibility of designing and implementing the stage for the main cultural venue of the Manipur Sangai Festival 2011 at the Bhagyachandra Open Air Theatre (BOAT) at Palace Compound, Imphal. The SACH team led by well known artist B.Banamali Sharma executed the task admirably well in time.



Pics: Asem Bhakta

Stage design by SACH for Manipur Sangai Festival 2011

Sharma Arts & Crafts House (SACH)

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.



Pics: SACH

The SACH team which performed the experimental 'Maya' at the Manipur Sangai Festival 2011 on November 22.

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