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Inside story
CREATIVE CORNERS

Colleges in the City have their own colourful spaces decked up with stones sculptures, wall art and other informative installations



● Soumika M Das

From sculptures to informative installations, college campuses in the City are home to some amazing public art. Time and again, the institutes have roped in artists of repute to make exclusive art works for their respective campuses. When asked about the purpose behind making art works a part of the campus life, the authorities said—“art helps students discover their creative side.” The City Express strolled through campuses to bring you what to look for, if you are an art lover.

‘Stones can speak’

Sculptor Adwaita Gadanayak, who is also the director of Government run National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, worked extensively for at least six years to develop an art gallery and stone sculpture park at KIIT University. According to the artist, the oldest ‘family members’ on the earth are stones. “They (stones) know everything about us. Our history is embedded in their layers. When we work on stones, we get to hear the vibrations. Stones have the power to convey your message to the supreme power. That’s what people believe. My sculptures at KIIT were also inspired by the same concept,” he said. The artist had travelled to Nanahandi village in Koraput district to collect



more than 200 pieces of giant stones for his sculptures. He also interacted with the old temple artists like Sudarshan Sahoo to shape his ideas using stones. The artist revealed how he segregated the ‘male stones’ which are softer in texture than the ‘female’ ones for making the sculptures. “The male stones are used for making female sculptures and vice-versa. I applied the same concept at KIIT,” he added. In the sculpture park at KIIT, you can feel the vibrations when you touch the statues or listen to their sounds. “If you surrender to the stones, you can also get to hear their sound. I wanted to trap the sound in the sculptures,” he said. The artist has also made more than 130 paintings, which are displayed in the institute’s art gallery. Most of his sculptures at KIIT are also spiritual in nature. “You can feel the magnetic field at the sculpture park,” he added.

Crafting concepts

Another sculptor Gopal Rath has crafted exclusive sculptures for Utkal University, Ramadevi Women’s College and some other institutes. On these campuses, the sculptures convey some messages. All these sculptures are made in sandstone or limestone. In front of distant learning centre of Utkal University, his sculptures titled ‘freedom bird’ are installed. “These art works are related to the theme of education. The main sculpture is in the form of a bird perched on an open book,” the artist said. Similarly, he has conceptualised a sculpture using mixed mediums of stone and brass to depict ‘surya namaskar’ at the Utkal University of Culture.

All that’s hippie

Not just renowned artists, but students on the campus also take up creative initiatives to make the campus look ‘hippie and cool.’ For instance, SQA University has a dedicated club of 180 students, from various engineering streams, who are wall-painters or graffiti artists. From the bus stops, boundary walls to the tennis court, they have painted everything on the campus using acrylics and wall paint. The members of the club ‘Shristi’ are also roped in for City beauti-

fication projects by various agencies. “At present, we are busy painting a 16 ft high wall at an upcoming multi-speciality hospital,” said Smarak Ballav Jena, a student of SQA. These students also keep updating the pictures of the wall art on Instagram and other social media platforms. Wall art clubs also exist in AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Each year, before the institute’s fest Chiasma, the students make colourful wall art.

Defence marvels

At IIT Bhubaneswar, the installations used for landscaping are a little different. They are aircrafts, tanks or engines of defence jets installed at elevated platforms, throughout the campus. The institute has sourced Battle Tank T-55 Central Armoured Fighting Vehicle Depot (CAFVD), Kirkee in Pune. It has been placed opposite to main gate circle at the institute. Aircraft HPT32, brought from Air Force Station, Tambaram in Chennai is also placed near the main gate. The aero engine of MIG-21 (R-11 T-70121025), brought from Air Force Station, Kalakunda, has been installed in front of Foyer of School Of Mechanical Sciences. According to the institute’s Director RV Raja Kumar, these installations serve multiple purposes — disseminating information about highest forms of technology, campus beautification and instilling patriotic fervour among students.