

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION IN ROCK ART RESEARCH

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Rock Art studies have been dominated by globalising, spatial and temporal nomenclatures borrowed from Archaeology, stylistic history of Art, ethnographic speculations; by postulates of bio-neurological constants; by topographic determinism, obsession with statistical indices and psycho analytical explorations. 'Scientific' attempts to date and understand rock art on the basis of evidence, internal rather than external to such art, have also suffered from subjectivism due to inherent imperfections in the 'scientific' approaches. Inter disciplinary collaboration and calibration of diverse approaches is necessary to reach an approximate understanding of the shape and meaning, form and function of rock art. Such study is required on the symbol making tendencies and communication systems of the tribal peoples, as well as on prehistoric rock art itself. The bridges between rock art and contemporary tribal art can also be established, if at all, only through such research. Tentative attempts are being made in this direction by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (the National Museum of Mankind), at Bhopal, in Madhya Pradesh, India.