



PERSISTENCE OF MODERN TIMES: AN INTERACTION STUDY WITH INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, REFLECT ON ARTISTIC WORKS

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ABSTRACT:

Subject of man and machine is not a new thing in twenty first century. The debate for this particular subject belongs to long ago where mechanism of a man is increasing day by day. But the way it reflects everywhere it's not the same, where alienation and migration does not work for shake of labourer's economic issues. But also, there is aesthetic sense of workers work and relationship with machines. Aesthetic the way they work, the way they look their appearance and family background. Along with aesthetic sense artistic work comes automatically. The visualization done by the artist is personal and sensitive observation. Geographical location and typography of this particular area have documented through photography and art works. The inventor brought some inventions through medium which is apart from mechanism of art and relate with western techniques.

KEYWORDS: Art and Culture, Workers, Alienation, Documentation, Mineral material, China clay, Painting Method.

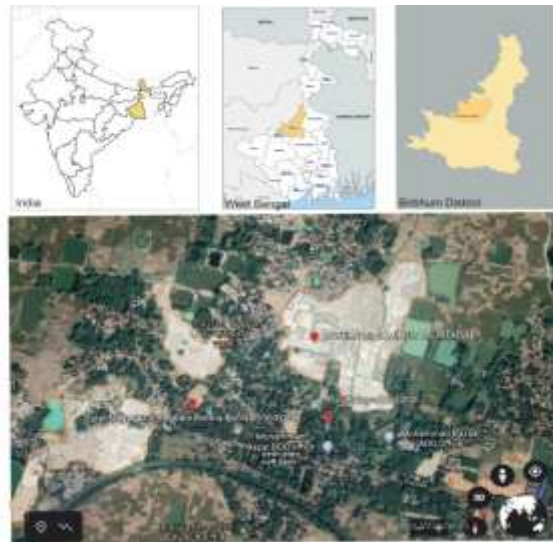
OBJECTIVES:

It is a journey of an artist who is one of the villagers trying to bring out all the relationship through art works such as drawing, painting, installation, book art, mural and photography in the context of post-modern art practices with the references of modernism.

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INTRODUCTION:

Ganeshpur, Patelnagar, Kharia, kumarpur, Rajyadharpur, Shaldaha, Angergaria and Makdumnagar, –are the villages with full of unique white soil which is called ‘Khari’ in Bengali and china clay in English. Located at Md bazaar block, Birbhum district in West Bengal, India. Other than this greenery, paddy fields, ponds and huts make it beautiful scenic village. Most of the workers are from cited villages. A small industry set outside my village based on that unique white soil named Patelnagar mineral Industry Private Limited called ‘Khari-factory, Birbhum district is the most expensive supplier of china clay around country and foreign too. More than two thousand people are running this industry from 15th Dec, 1955. This particular study based on own experience who worked with them and for them. As an artist it is important to understand workers emotion and relation towards machines which didn’t stop for a second. It’s a community of workers with having only body strength and minimum uses of intelligence. Entire scenario covered with white dust and the land of white. Original colour of the nature derives to white. Capturing and documented their emotion on canvas, paper and photographs rather than other medium. This paper is having two principles of aspect- documentation and the role of an artist own practice-based research in contemporary art.



[Fig 1: White areas are the mine factory; Source: Google.co.in and Google earth]

SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND MATERIALS USE IN VILLAGES:

Most of the villagers are workers in this industry and twenty-four hours people are involved to run this industry and the material use for build and wall plaster purpose for mud houses for villagers and for foreign country it uses for detergent powder, sandals, tyre making etc. Some of the workers are farming during the monsoons and they change their occupation in seasons like summers and working in industries. Except salary industry also use to provide financial support for emergency cases.

WORKERS WORK AS ART FORMS:

Body of works were influenced by Chinese art (Song Dynasty) where they used to draw on silk or different kind of papers, their technique, and complexity of composition. Then I thought to move forward through my own way with reference of that traditional art. I started depicting the crowded areas and every time I saw lot of workers doing their work together, I used to capture them.



[Fig:2-11, Photography Source: Author]

Their body movement and sweat of the body use to appear as performance artist who is performing in front of technology. When the colour of flesh turned around white it's appeared as light weight to understand about their value and emotion. Eyes speak about tiredness, attraction and motivated. Wet body with sweat is reflection of coating varnish on oil painting. The proportion of body and chiaroscuro on surface of frame remind me the approach of renaissance triangular composition connected to each object to make it balanced.

Photography is not only the solution to capturing emotion, it needs some practical experience which is visible on paintings.



[Fig: 12-15 photographs and paintings source: Author]

LITERATURE / PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW:

The theory of 'ALIENATION' by Karl Marx, who wrote – “In a capitalist society the worker's alienation from his and her humanity occurs because the workers can only express 'Labour'-a fundamental social aspect of personal individuality –through a privately owned system of industrial production in which each worker is an instrument, a thing not a person.” Since Marx's Capital, machines have often met with stern criticism. Marx argued that despite being a productive force, machines were used to produce more and more surplus value for the capitalists. Marx's view on current situation brought under nature and human under single tree. And a dignity of a nation lies behind workers' motion.

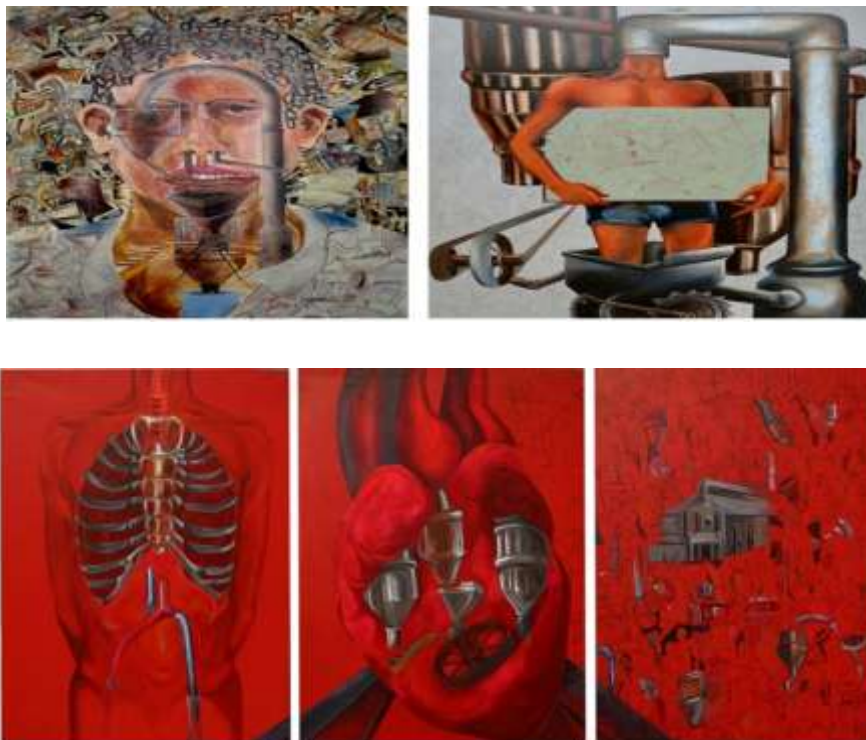
But scenario of this particular industry is totally different where all use to come together for needed time. The theory of alienation it works mentally which is not visible for the workers.

The movie called 'Ajantrik'(1958) by Bengali movie maker Ritik Ghatak who portrayed a person's life derives towards industrial wasteland, delivering people from one place to another place based on social realism. The uses of car sound emphasis on function and movement with adding some humour and correlate with human body movement and sound- most relatable things to think in different ways of seeing while keeping social and economic issue in mind. 'Modern Time' (1936) - Movie by Charlie Chaplin had portrayed about psychological effect of a labour somewhere relate with Maxim Gorky's 'Mother' (1906) a famous novel. From his own experience he spoke about lower classes workers where a widow mother works in industry and her son is a leader of democracy workers circle who raised the voice against the bourgeoisie society and believed proletariat only the base of the society. This is the book of social reality about past and present. Love and affection also reflected. But I was missing to see the misunderstanding between workers versus industry. Movie called 'Metropolis' (1927) also having same impact of mechanical life. At a

same time, the composition by German expressionist, Mexican muralist Diego Rivera (first half of twentieth century and Chinese Philosophy of Confucius (551 BC–479 BC) and paintings make me to think the way of depiction from neutral stand.

HOW THE MECHANICAL WORKS BECAME CULTURE / DOCUMENTATION:

Culture of timing, Industry siren use exact on 5.45 am in summer and 6.45 for winter, culture of maintaining time, situation and with aluminium tiffin box on their hand they use to walk. Actually, these factories don't close for one minute; all the time we were disturbed by the noises. A lot of workers work in separate shifts and in different parts of the factory. All of them come and work to survive so nobody complains. I found a lot of machines which are too noisy and most of them have their own characteristics. Even in my home, I use to hear mechanical sounds from the Factories which that affected my mind and which I focused in my recent drawings and paintings. Through these two paintings artist represent himself, what artist realized about elements of those noisy machines, which even change the workers' mind. And another way I also felt that every man has become like a machine specially the workers, which I also felt closely for myself while working in the fields. I have tried to show the process of changing a human into a pipe, because the manual objects are getting transferred to industrial objects. Pipe has been shown about process of changing human life and manual objects are getting transfer to industrial object. Workers were working here, their motivation, their dedication towards their work has always influenced me a lot. Sometimes I was surprised to see how they work enormously along with machines and also how machines are helping them to do their works. Here I have felt both human beings and machines are correlated with each other.





[Fig: 16-19, Paintings; Source: Author]

Human body organs with mechanical parts and its functions are quite similar which have been shown in my paintings. Juxtapose with the images are overlapped in each composition. Colours are bright to focus on emotion.

ANALYSIS:

Sound of the machine roaring for entire day and voice of the workers does not work in front of the machine. Their visual communication made people to think and teach patient towards work, motivated and all the day behave like a machine in working period. With the mixing of sweat and china clay on body appears as a professional performer performing their duty. The dust of china clay harms the human body at a same time farmers land. To avoid the clashes between white and green there is a systematic drainage system. Humans are working as machine where they are losing their identity, emotion and softness of the body. Pollution occurred inside the industry; it does not affect to village area in large version. The mining is which is left behind use for fishery by the local villages, it uses supply water for harvesting.

INNOVATION /METHOD:

I have tried to give an impression of people involved in work for twenty-four hours. I used rice paper /nepali handmade to capture rough surface of the soil. Juxtaposed and overlapped the images in my paintings which I saw every day. For this painting I have actually used the method call oil Painting while using this Kharimati / China clay as a surface/ binding purpose. I started using different material like- copper plate, original book, and glossy photographs. Photograph based on workers' daily life and I drew the machinery forms and their portraits in copper plate like a book form, inner portion of this book (book related to industrial revolution) was cut out in human portraits and machinery forms. Experiment and documented the scenario with tiles (build from mineral Material) and collage /photomontage work. Colour of all paintings chosen from machine colour and colour of china clay. Where Yellow represent daylight, Brown the colour of hard work, blue for dream black belongs to night and the circle of three colour used to show entire day divided by eight hours.

I have done collages where I have tried to show workers' resting time, working time as well as how machine and man working with competition. And then I move forward to juxtapose

metaphorically. In this way when I was thinking the changes between workers and machine, again rough surface came through huge size in the background. Tiles mural also have done to portray their vision, with the purpose of keeping it in entrance of the industry. It is one of the medium for the purpose of communicating with long time durability. Colours have chosen to show industrialization – brown, Prussian blue, white and black with the minimum uses of red.



[Fig: 20-25 Paintings; Source: Artist]

CONCLUSION:

This study deals with a particular industry with a common relation between villagers and workers, where the photography, painting and other medium also played a vital role to make it global. In one point of view there always a debut on Industry with farmer's land in Bengal but to understand economical background somehow people will accept their hard work without any complaints. All the philosophy might not be suitable for all. It's all about self-observation of an artist, avoiding the clashes and focusing on positive way. All the paintings are way of seeing through an artist observation where common people understand the way labourers deal with machine and how machines help them to make any product successfully.

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