

5

Indian Bronzes (Sculpture)

5.0 INTRODUCTION

From earliest times to Modern period, the Dancing Girl is the earliest example of metal sculpture. The most outstanding are the bronze images particularly popular in Southern India. Beginning of the seventh century, a school of metal sculpture was evolved in South-India. The Chola dynasty of 10th C. produced some of the greatest works of Hindu Sculptures in the Southern part of India. The “Lost-wax” process (cire perdue) was used. The sculptures are not only technically superb but they are aesthetically outstanding.

5.1 OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, the learner should be able to :

- explain in brief the process to make bronze sculpture;
- state the names of the famous bronze sculptures found in India;
- identify the period of the bronze sculptures;
- tell about the materials used for making bronze sculptures;



Cosmic Dance of Lord Shiva

5.2 COSMIC DANCE OF LORD SHIVA

<i>Title</i>	-	<i>Nataraja</i>
<i>Period</i>	-	<i>Chola 11th century A.D.</i>
<i>Medium</i>	-	<i>Bronze</i>
<i>Size</i>	-	<i>Height 98X84 cm</i>
<i>Site</i>	-	<i>Thanjavour, Tamilnadu</i>
<i>Style</i>	-	<i>Chola</i>
<i>Collection</i>	-	<i>National Museum, New Delhi.</i>

General Description

Among the numerous Gods represented in the bronze images, the most popular was Shiva. He is engaged in the dance of the universe and is trampling on the dwarf of illusion. He is holding the drum of creation in the right hand and the fire of destruction in the corresponding left. The lower right hand is stretched out in a gesture of protection (*abhaya*) and the lower left signifies salvation. This sculpture is remarkable for the balance of the limbs and the rhythm running through them. The cosmic dance represents the essence of the Hindu concept of life. The dynamic movement of the God expresses the eternal process of creation, destruction, and re-creation.

IN-TEXT QUESTIONS (5.2)

Fill in the blanks

1. 'Nataraja' collection at the National Museum, New Delhi is made of _____.
2. Nataraja is holding the _____ of creation in the upper hand and _____ of destruction in the left.
3. Bronze casting of Nataraja is belongs to the _____ dynasty.



Dokra casting (Tribal Bronze casting)

5.3 DOKRA CASTING (Tribal Bronze casting)

<i>Title</i>	-	<i>Hourse Riding</i>
<i>Medium</i>	-	<i>Bronze, Brass</i>
<i>Artist</i>	-	<i>Tribals</i>
<i>Place</i>	-	<i>Madhya Pradesh, Tikamgarh</i>

General Description

Dokra casting or the lost-wax (Cire-Perdue) technique is one of the oldest metallurgical art forms used in ancient civilizations in India and also in China, Greece and Mesopotamia. The tribals are still using this process.

It involves the following steps.

1. Making a clay cover by firing in kiln.
2. Wrapping bee-wax around the core to get a replica.
3. Coating the replica with wet clay and then drying in the sun.
4. Heating should melt the wax which flows out early.
5. Filling with metal. Cast in furnace and left to cast.
6. Breaking the mould to get a Dokra Artifact.

IN-TEXT QUESTIONS (5.3)

Put (✓) or (x)

1. Dokra casting is the lost-wax technique.
 2. The technique of Dokra casting is one of the oldest metallurgical art form.
 3. Coating the replica with Dry clay.
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Triumph of Labour

5.4 TRIUMPH OF LABOUR

Title	-	<i>Triumph of Labour</i>
Artist	-	<i>Shri Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury</i>
Medium	-	<i>Bronze</i>
Date	-	<i>1954</i>
Collection	-	<i>National Gallery of Modern Art, Jaipur House, New Delhi.</i>

General Description

Shri D.P. Roy Chowdhury was one of the most outstanding artists in the Indian art scene. He was primarily a sculptor and a painter. He was also proficient in wrestling, hunting, writing and music. He was not in favour of holding exhibitions. He said, "I consider my modest studio as a sort of old, sacred temple devoted to the cause of art. I worship the object I create. I can never think of them being carried now and then for public view. Those who are real lovers of art are welcome to my studio". He went to Abanindranath Tagore as his disciples in his teenage and followed the master's style and technique. He is known and respected today more as a sculptor. In his early life he worked under the noted sculptor *Hiranmoy Roy Chowdhury*.

As a composition *The Triumph of Labour* is a master piece. This will remain as an outstanding example of contemporary Indian sculpture. The four figures in the first group are perfect anatomical studies of men engaged in a formidable task of lifting a huge rock. The most distinctive feature of this group is its universal appeal and rare quality of mobility. This sculpture symbolically represent the sacrifice, which Indians made for winning Independence.

INTEXT QUESTION (5.4)

Fill in the blanks:-

1. D.P. Roy Chowdhury was proficient in _____, _____, and _____.
2. In his early life Shri D.P. Roy Chowdhury started work under the noted sculptor _____.
3. The Triumph of Labour is a symbol of "_____".

5.5 SUMMARY

The remarkable collection of bronze sculpture at the Government museum, Chennai, is the Nataraja, Cosmic dance of Lord Shiva. The Triumph of Labour installed at National Gallery of Modern Art and the Martyr's Memorial installed at Teen Murti Marg, New Delhi, are outstanding examples of Modern bronze sculpture. The process of preparing bronze sculpture is known as cire-perdue meaning lost wax process. Dokra Art and bronze casting are done by the same process.

5.6 MODEL QUESTIONS

1. What are the characteristics of Nataraja bronze sculpture?
2. Write the method of preparing the lost wax process.
3. Name the dynasty under which Bronze sculpture reached its Zenith.

5.7 ANSWERS OF INTEXT QUESTIONS.

- 5.2 1. bronze 2. drum, fire 3. chola
- 5.3 1. √ 2. √ 3. √
- 5.4 1. Hunting, Writing, Music 2. Hiranmoy Roy Chowdhury
3. Sacrifice

5.8 TERMINOLOGY

Wrestler: - A sport one tries to throw a person to the ground without hitting him.

Exhibition:- To organize a show.

Martyr's Memorial:- Remembering the dead heroes

Formidable:- Very difficult.

Chola dynasty:- Period of 11th century AD.

Dwarf:- A person much shorter than normal height

Drum:- Musical instrument of Lord Shiva.

Dynamic movement:- Forceful movement.

Disciple:- One who learns from another

Technique:- Method of doing by mechanical skill.

Universal appeal:- Affecting all

Tramples to - Crush under the feet