

**ROCK ART OF ORISSA AND TRIBAL ART TRADITION:
A SEARCH FOR GENESIS AND CULTURAL AFFINITIES**

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Summary

In India the distribution map of Rock Art sites show that its eastern most limit is within the Chottonagpur Plateau. In the east maximum concentrations of rock art sites are within the State of Orissa. The present paper explains the range of rock art motifs, its form and compositional layout as represented in some particular sites of Sambalpur District, Orissa. An intensive study of the rock art motifs available in Ulapgarh site illustrates the preponderance of symbolic forms as represented in the non-figurative motifs. It is indeed important to correlate similar abstract forms available in the local tribal art, which has a religious significance.

In Kharia, Santal and several other tribal societies living in the same area art has definitive social and religious significance. This paper attempts to correlate the ancient or early rock art of the area with the prehistoric cultural materials and as well as the tribal material culture, society and religion.