

Simona Bocchi – An Italian Sculptor in India

The first time I traveled to India was in 2006.

Delhi was my first stop; my visit was short but the impressions it made on me were immediate and profound.

I had always promised myself that I would go back to India when I had enough time to dedicate to my art. The occasion arrived five months after that first journey when, thanks to a professional opportunity and to an irresistible passion, I got up the courage to move to Udaipur. This old world, spiritual and magical, welcomed me with its warmth and its intensity and encouraged me to give new shapes, colours and dimensions to my artistic expression.

India brought about intense changes in me. The perception of time which permeates Indian life, so different from the Western concept, persuaded me to sculpt by hand again – an activity which requires months, sometimes years to complete a single work. Sculpting requires discipline, focus and physical strength; repeating endless movements which eventually reveals the shape of what is to come. My sensitivities have been sharpened towards each moment of artistic creation: thought becomes energy and by means of a tool the energy is transformed into a gesture which in turn meets the matter; natural and ancestral. The matter, being given a new life with every stroke, is reborn as its own entity which will be eternal – as is art. The intensity of life permeates within the form and its message expands to the entire universe.

In 2002, when I began my research on how to work with jute, I was attracted to the look and style of the Indian nomadic people. Jute, when sculpted and molded, began to reveal “Characters”; portraits depicting the features of the rural people of India. Now I see those faces every day, in my daily life, everywhere. These wandering people have given my life a new sense of spirit, a return to the essence and a renewed appreciation of nature.



SHIVA PARVATI Museum Uttarajan ART Foundation Baroda, India



PERSONAGE, Jute 2002

Even in the process of working with bronze, a favourite material of mine, my stay in India has allowed me the evolution of mind and spirit. I am on a perpetual path of exploration and research. Once again it is nature that guides me and gives me the inspiration for my works. Nature has given us an endless variety of surfaces; rough and contrasting or smooth and shapeless; and it is this same organic expression I intend to give back to the solid yet malleable bronze. India offers the artist the space and the time to admire what surrounds us, to think, understand, feel and return to our core; a luxury that is made more precious in this fast pace and insatiable world that we live in.

The last four years that I have experienced in India has been the beginning of a long journey that lies ahead of me. A journey with the aim of combining the artistic spirit born within me from two distinct cultures; from my roots in the Western World and for my love of the Eastern World. Working with jute or with bronze, with marble or with canvas; means to engrave the moments of my life in the material of choice, like writing sentences in a diary.

And my Indian diary is open for anyone who wants to share with me the joy I feel in creating my works.



SHIVA PARVATI bronze 2008



VIOLINIST International Museum del
Parco Centro Umberto I Portofino, Italy

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My next engagements in India:

- 1) Exhibition and Workshop in Marble “Science and Spiritual Heritage of India” organized by Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich, in cooperation with the Indian Technological Institute, from the 20th to the 27th November 2010.
- 2) Exhibition at the City Palace, Udaipur kindly organized by Arvind Singh of Mewar, Maharana of Udaipur. (date to be confirmed).
- 3) Personal exhibition at the Italian Institute of Culture, organized by the Italian Embassy, New Delhi. (date to be confirmed).
- 4) Continuous collaboration with CNR Productions, a cultural center promoting the arts, based in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This will include projects, workshops and exhibitions. www.crnproductions.com
- 5) Many other projects beyond this are to be done.

The two exhibitions mentioned above will emphasize the communion of our two nations and will demonstrate the importance of dialogue between the two cultures. These events will have national and international media coverage, television and newspaper, to promote my work and those who are sponsoring my exhibitions. Participating as a sponsor in these exhibitions is a guarantee of visibility and access to the privileged circles in the world of art and culture.

The logo of the contributors will be visible at the exhibitions and will be included in a catalog of my best works; this catalog will be sent out to a high profile mailing list including embassies, personalities of the cultural world, organizations and commercial enterprises. This will also be a good opportunity for Italian companies to share their appreciation of artistic expression with their Indian counterparts.

In order to reach my goal of touring and promoting my artwork around India, I will need to find art lovers, galleries and companies that would be interested in sponsoring me. To circulate my work requires a financial commitment as well as logistical support. Due to the nature of my art, which is mostly in the form of sculptures, it can be costly to move the pieces from one destination to another. Some Italian companies such as Omeoenergetica, Human Tecar, Unibell International Srl have already pledged their support. I would also like to find the same type of loyalty from Indian companies or individuals.



AFRODITE Statuary marble 2005



"WE ARE ONE" Carrara marble 2009
Skieriehamn, Aanneland, NORWAY

Please find here enclosed some photographs of my works. For a more complete vision of my artistic activity please visit my website: www.simonabocchi.com



ETERNAL TRAVELLER bronze 2009

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