



# Artistic Exordium Of Prehistoric Rock Shelters Of Kumaon Region In Uttarakhand

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## Abstract

One such medium which preserved the evidence of human civilization, living, apparel of the very antediluvian times for an illimitable period of time, the medium was the rock depiction done by man in prehistoric times. The esse of antediluvian forms of mentally conceived, language-style, living-style, regalement etc., prevalent in human cultural activities, keeps on getting ravaged with time. Art has been a mirror of man's environment since archaic times, man has been marking his expressions through art since prehistoric times. The first form of art was rock painting, the evidence of which has been attested in many places in the world. After Australia and Africa, India is one of those countries where there is not only many evidence of rock painting but there is storage. In many states in India. Many research works have been consummated on rock paintings, sundry philomaths have indited books on these subjects. The experts of archeology made a full contribution in kenning the duration of these paintings and keeping these pictures as an integral part of human civilization and bulwarking them.

## Introduction

Uttarakhand is a very pulchritudinous state with maximum mountains, rivers and lush green forests. On the substratum of geographical parameters, Uttarakhand is divided into two components. Kumaon region and Garhwal region. Many traditional customs have been preserved in the form of civilization and heritage since archaic times in the Kumaon region. In this green environment, propitious conditions are available for the survival of human beings and other living beings since antediluvian times. Some such people took shelter in the stones here and there they carved their phrenic conceptions on the stone walls. Such evidence are found in many places in Uttarakhand.



On the way from Almora city to Jageshwar Dhampur, about 15.5 km ahead of Almora, near the village designated Bade China, there is a notice board of the Archaeological Department of India on the right side of the road, in which the pictures made by humans in prehistoric times in rock shelters. Is. Going inside about 50 meters from the road, paintings made by humans of prehistoric times are visually perceived on a stone rock, in which most of the pictures have lost their color. Eradicated by some people, as well as due to lack of adequate maintenance and care, this painting has mostly lost its pristine form, but still some pictures are pellucidly visible through which the subject matter of the painting done by prehistoric man Art experts and other philosophers keep giving their opinion about it. The styles of paintings are mainly cognate to authenticity, prehistoric man represented his genuine experiences through many mediums. Despite the lack of resemblance, there is a sense of authenticity in his style. Verbalizing about the technicalities, mostly ocher color has been depicted accurately by contrasting accounting.



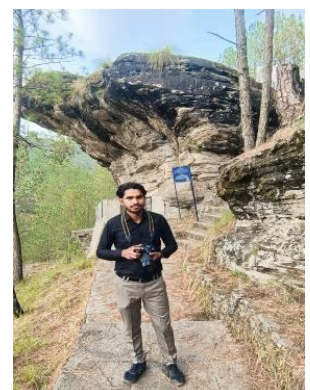
Prehistoric man utilized a variety of coalescences of colors, in which the color of ocher has been utilized, as well as made colors from variants of mineral sources, which are utilized in prehistoric paintings, by grinding dihydrogen monoxide with botanical juice. The utilization of mixed pigment powder is withal optically discerned in prehistoric paintings, it has been scientifically proven. Prehistoric man used stone or coal in many places afore filling with colors Rock painting is an art made on stones. In archaic times man has made maximum utilization of this art to express his noetic conceptions. Evidence of prehistoric painting is found at many places in India. Of which Bhimbetka is considered to be the most prominent. The prehistoric paintings found in different components of Uttarakhand have a different place in themselves. Sundry types of figures are optically discerned in the rock painting of Lakhudiyar, whose colors are still refulgent and clear.



After studying many books, papers, magazines and research papers inscribed on rock painting, I culled my research topic "Artistic study of rock paintings of Kumaoni region". In the book "Rock Art in Kumaon Himalaya" indited by Dr. Yashodhar Mathpal ji, a detailed description of the consummate rock paintings of the coastal areas of Himalayas has been given. Simultaneously, a comparative and analytical analysis of the rock paintings found in the Kumaon region along with the evidence found at many places in India in the incrementing order of the civilization of prehistoric humans has additionally been given. Other books "Prehistoric rock paintings of Bhimbetka, Central India" and "Kumaon Painting: A Story of a Living Tradition of Painting in the Kumaon", gave information about the prehistoric rock paintings of Bhimbetka.

From the book Kumaon Painting, cognizance of the traditional painting of Kumaon and the living, customs and dress of Kumaon was obtained. Under this research, people who are local were interviewed for primary data. Questions were placed in the interview, which were compulsory for the research. Sources for secondary data include research papers, books, local newspapers as well as Internet websites.

Prehistoric painting is a mirror of the life history of man. Along with the development of man, there was withal the development of art. Since prehistoric times, resplendency and emotion have been facilely incorporated in art.



## **MEDIUM AND TECHNIQUES OF ROCK ART**

Ancient rock art, created by various cultures and civilizations throughout history, utilized different mediums for their artistic expressions. The mediums used in ancient rock art depended on the resources available to the artists and the specific techniques they employed. Here are some common mediums used in ancient rock art:

1. Charcoal and Charred Wood: Some ancient rock art was created using charcoal or charred wood. This medium was applied by drawing directly onto the rock or as a basis for pigmented images.
2. Ochre and other Mineral Powders: Ochre, a naturally occurring mineral pigment, was commonly used by ancient cultures for rock art. It was often mixed with other substances to create a paste that could be applied to the rock surface.
3. Pigments: Many ancient rock art sites include pictographs, which are images painted or drawn on the rock surface using pigments. These pigments were often made from natural materials like minerals, clay, charcoal, or plant extracts. Colors ranged from earthy tones like red, yellow, and black to whites and other hues.
4. Engraving and Incising: Petroglyphs, or rock engravings, were created by cutting or scraping the rock surface to create images. Tools such as sharp stones or other hard objects were used to etch designs into the stone.
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7. Rock Carving: In some cases, rocks were shaped or carved to create three-dimensional representations of animals, humans, or other objects. These rock-cut sculptures provided additional dimensionality to the art.
8. Finger Painting: In some instances, artists used their fingers or hands to apply pigment directly to the rock surface, leaving behind handprints or finger marks as part of their artistic expression.
9. Relief Carving: In addition to petroglyphs, some rock art featured relief carvings where the design was raised from the rock surface rather than engraved into it.

In prehistoric times, man was living his life facing material difficulties in life. At that time, along with revealing resplendency in his art, man marked the aberrant situations going on in his life. Due to the prehistoric man's habitation in the forests, their nature was truculent and rigorous. His life was very insecure and struggling. Living in a variety of habitats prevalent in nature, man in his painting, depicted the events that transpired with him, the breathtaking moments that gave delectation, the hunting, the animals and birds.

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