

- **Junior Fellowship for 2013-2014 in the field of Visual Art, Sub-Field Sculpture.**
- **File No.-CCRT/JF-3/75/2015**

Pinaki Ranjan Mohanty

Concept note

MOURNING CHILIKA: A WITNESS

Change is the law of natures. But change....in which direction?

Why I have interested in CHILIKA:

My ongoing sculptures depict the ecological imbalance in Chilika which point out the food chain in nature where the humans are unnecessarily interrupting the law of natural balance.

Chilika the blue lagoon is nowadays in its worst condition which needs to be taken attention for its conservation. I am intended to look after the ecological imbalance around the lake. In the last decade there is a lot of change occurred in Chilika that what I have been witnessing as I belongs to a small village in the bank of the lake.

In Odisha literature many of the famous poets and authors entangle Chilika in words as a beauty that beholds everybody. So the idea is to put up all those great milestones of a particular period ironically to evaluate the gap in between the bygone era and present.

How I want to do it:

I want to use the local found objects and material for my sculptures as well as for site specific works. Basically Chilika is known for its scenic beauty as well as migratory birds, dolphins and fishes and other species marine life. The customs to catch the fishes in the lake is a debate now. People by cast (Keuat) authorized for fishing or others can intrude to their profession is now became a question. A lot of problems entangle in Chilika and my concern thrust me to ponder over the serious issues and to make some art works for a better understanding of the human made perplexity.

What I will do in this project:

In the project I want to mingle with local community to unravel the root cause as well as current situation of that particular mass. There will be discourse among artist and non artist through interactive and site specific art works. The motto is to become a friend for the harassed people and to open up the way for others to look after their untold story to the rest of the world through sculpture with (stone, terracotta, mixed media, locally found object like sea coral), site specific work and installation.



Pinaki Ranjan Mohanty

1st Report.

Title: untitled

Size:100X36X16cms

Medium: Ceramics, wood, feather

A Pistol with a bunch of birds feathers in its point, a symbolic sculpture symbolising the concept of killing of birds at chilika another way of creating the natural imbalance by unauthorized killings.



Title: Night watcher

Size: 62x19x12cms, Medium:

Wood



A Torch a symbol associated with the fisher man, a symbolic representation of constant catching even at night which create a natural imbalance.

Title: Grandfather

Size:153x23x12cms

Medium : Ceamics,wood,seed

A stick with a bird skull in its head (Hand Rest} a symbolic sculpture in wood and Fiver symbolizing the concept of killing and destroying the natural resources. This is highly a abstract symbol of the human activity towards the nature specially at chilika.



Title: inspirational god

Size:94x48x32cms

Medium: Cement,sea coral

An image of a fertility Goddess made out of locally available materials like natural stone, sea waste and concrete placed in the sea shore as a symbol of goddess of natural resources and to create respect to the natural resources through the fear of God, even the colours and the form of figure is executed according to the primitive concept of image making so as to symbolise that the natural resources are not man made it is the gift of unknown power.



2nd Report.

The love for 'Chilika' soil, the scenic beauty described in the poems of poet's is unforgettable. When I was a kid, the prepossessing beauty of Chilika lake, I heard of is slowly and gradually with the flick of a switch is deteriorating, with the changing era, the poetry has changed its definitions. The surrounding population of village, its temples, the workshop in it, and the noises of people around it have contaminated the water and surroundings of the lake. The flocks of birds those fly from abroad are be hunted by the hunters. This present facts arises questions on the future conservation of the Chilika Lake. The questions on the ecological imbalance and societal change off its beauty gradually. Being a sculptor I can outlook the sculpture that the cosmos has built for the picturesque Lake.



REFLECTIVE, CHILIKA

55X40X30cms

CERAMICS, IRON, FEATHERS

2016

Time demands changes in the nature. The mass around the Lake have associated themselves with the adoration for a duty and the immersion of deities. Meanwhile the internet marine of the Lake the curls, sailfish, seals, heaps etc start their continuation of life. But simultaneously the habitual of Lake engenders to a new form which gives inspiration and vitalize my work and concept.

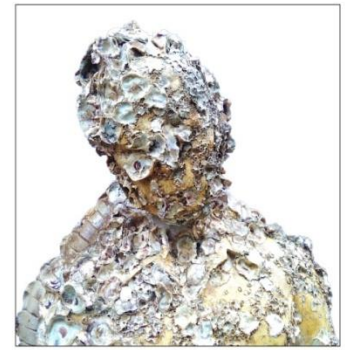
PROCESS - 2



RE-LOOKING CHILIKA



150X80X50cms



WHITE CEMENT, SHELLFISH, CORALS

2016

PROCESS - 1



RE-LOOKING CHILIKA



150X80X50cms



WHITE CEMENT, SHELLFISH, CORALS

2016



IMMERSION OF BRUNDABATI

50X45X36cms



CEMENT, FIBERGLASS, CORALS

2016

During my 6 months research the beautiful idea got from the nature's lap have always tried to put that into new art form The rare species like flamingo birds those who migrate from other countries have create a impressive form in my sculptures, in my deeds I have always tried to create a form from the nature's lap have always tried to create an awareness and consciousness towards the conservation of nature through my crafts man ship the art of the renaissance



Liberate-ii

90x75x40cm

Fiberglass, ceramic, wood

2016

In the project I try to amalgamate with local community to untangle the root causes as well as present situation of that the mass through my work using local found objects and materials. A lot of problems reveal in this land of Chilika and my concern thrust me to ponder over the serious issues and to make my sculptures as well as for site specific works for a better understanding of human made incomprehension. There only motto to aware the public to upon up the way for others to look after their measureless and unwarranted story to the rest of world through sculptures with different medium only for a step towards the renaissance.

3rd Report.

Lake Chilika as I saw in my childhood days has changed. The beautiful passionate diva has changed into a saddened woman with shades of desperations and shadows of despair! Chilika ,as poets Radhanath Ray and Gopabandhu Das saw decades ago has not remained the same with its gait & galore. The blues of it's water, murmuring waves, the birds, the boatmen have all changed from poetic lucidities into prosaic paragraphs !

It has never been a lake for me ...never ever even when I was a boy who didn't understand anything about love and I remember she has always been my Goddess of Love !

Some years back, I started working on Chilika as an artist & lover. I never say nor do I ever feel that it has become uglier. I don't say it's 'un-beautiful' now. I only say the old euphoric beauty of my loved Chilika has been obliterated.

And this is the theme of my sculptures that I present here for appreciation and introspection

WORK 1



Title : 'Devi Erupting' , Medium - Corals, Terracotta, Fibreglass Size - 12 x 10 x 12 cm , Year-2017

Here is a sculpture made of the earthen *kalashee* (specially shaped earthen water-container) thrown into Lake Chilika at the time of '*Devi Bisarjan*' – immersion of the idol after the end of pujas . See how it has gathered corals in a stretch of time and become a completely new phenomenon. It seems to me as if Nature has given new life to the *kalashee* and a totally new shape to it which outwardly doesn't look like a *kalashee* at all.I have added some experiments on it by manoeuvring with different mediums and coloured it as per my imagination.

It seemed to me as if the Goddess has taken a new incarnation to come out and look at the people who threw it into the water in agony and anger !

WORK 2



Titled : 'The Sun on Chilika Loses Galore' , Medium - Mix Media , Size-20x18x12 cm , Year - 2017

The sun on Lake Chilika in the morning and evening always seemed to me those days as an apple of splendour – full of vigour & vitality collected from beautiful blue Chilika ! It looked awesome. But now, as Chilika has lost it's charming youthfulness & wild wealth -- how can it give it to the loving Sun !

And therefore perhaps, the Sun seemed without any perpetual glaze , affected by infectious corals , emerging from the dull water.

Struck by pain and bewilderment, I made this sculpture in which the Sun remains the same apple catching corals and looking pale.



Titled : 'Black Trees' , Medium - Wood, stone, terracotta, Size-124 x 75 x 32 cm, Year - 2017



Chilika's heartbeats slowed down and the black trees grew up !

Chilika's mouth was once upon a time full of greenery with huge numbers of tall bohemian trees like beholders of beauty of beautiful Chilika.

But those days are gone.

In the last few decades , tens of thousands of trees were slain & swindled by people living in nearby villages, merchants and machines , resulting endless patches of muddy outfits. The few left and very few newborns lack nourishment of nature; found sighing lifelessly in random loneliness.

I saw it broken in pain, remembered the luxuriant landscape I had seen in my boyhood days...playing there joyously.

When I wished to make my sculpture, my mind & heart didn't permit me to make it as it was in the remote past. The sculpture soul motto took the shape of lonely black tree covered in Chilika corals with the greed of people hanging on its branch like dried fish!



**Titled : 'Breakfast Bungalow breaking down' , Medium - cement,corals, Size - 30 x 24 x 18 cm ,
Year - 2017**

'Sankuda Island' also known as Breakfast Island, is one of the popular islands of the region which features a rich reserve of floral species.

Owing to its pear shaped appearance. My theme is the chief attraction of the Island , an ancient bungalow constructed by the erstwhile King of Khallikote for Mr. Snodgrass,

It was a magnetic attraction for visitors. In my boyhood days, I had been to this beautiful guest house many a times and enjoyed the landscape of Chilika . But now it has abruptly changed into a messy place . Visitors are free to throw rags into the Chilika water and here and there. When I wished to make out a sculpture of this bungalow, nowhere in my imagination,there was the nice place that I saw earlier .It was a dilapidated structure with corals of Chilika covering it and the agony of the lake reflected on it.I see it now breaking down in gloom...

WORK 5



Title : Silk Red Crabs, Medium - Silk,iron,wood , Size - Variable, Year - 2017

The restive and lonely beach of Gopalpur earlier was witness to big numbers of red crabs who used to move in and out of nearby hotels easily. But the last few years they have not been seen and the locals give those big red crabs as the best example of our vanishing and endangered biodiversity.

What I wish to represent through my work is that these crabs , traditionally viewed as a predator have changed into prey and now shown its vulnerability to ecological changes. I have grown up in a fishing village on the Lake Chilika and have been fascinated by biodiversity and beauty, which I have tried to bring together by using Berhampur Silk textile on the body of the local crabs and promote the rich local textile tradition.

WORK 6 - PHOTOGRAPHS



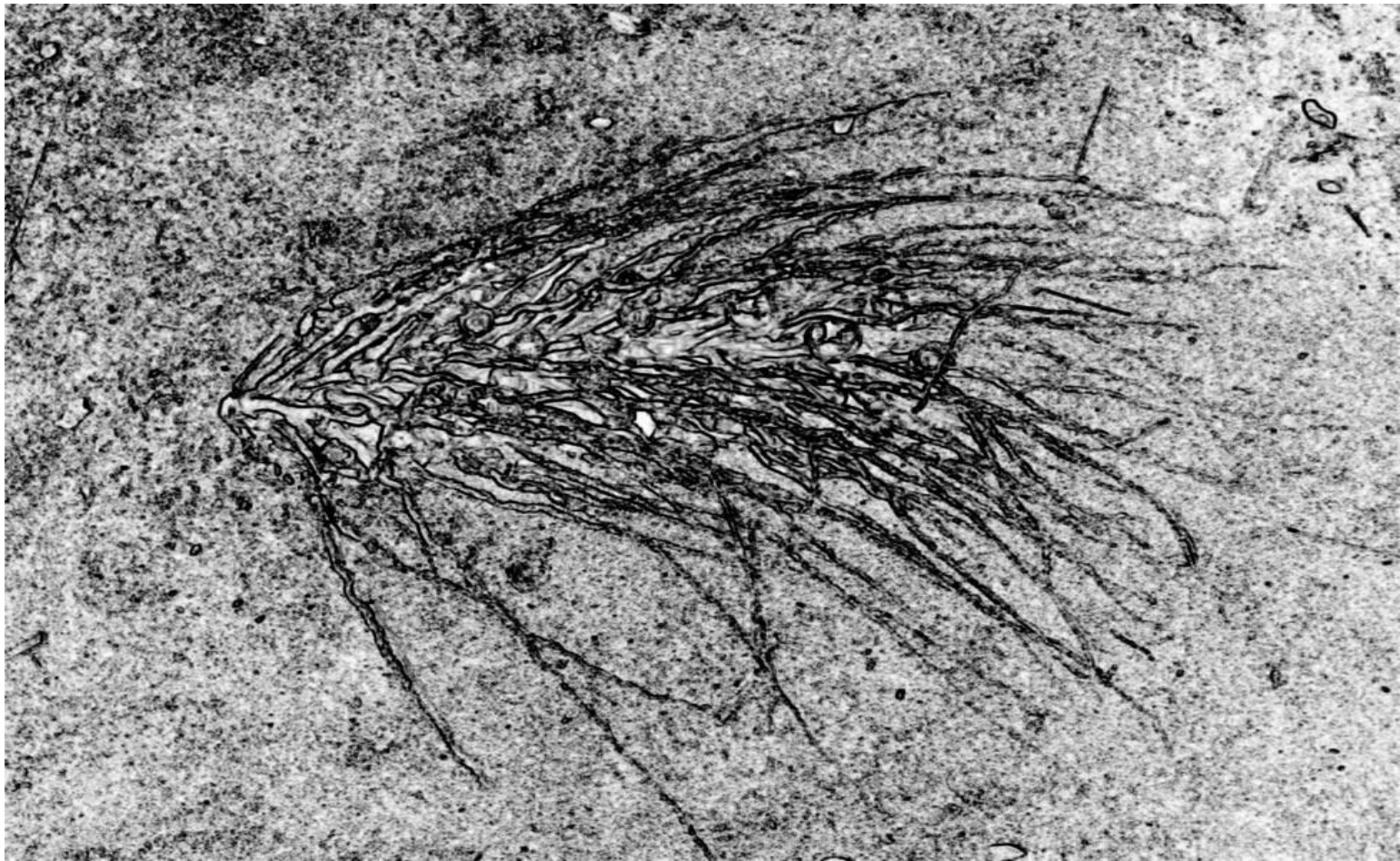


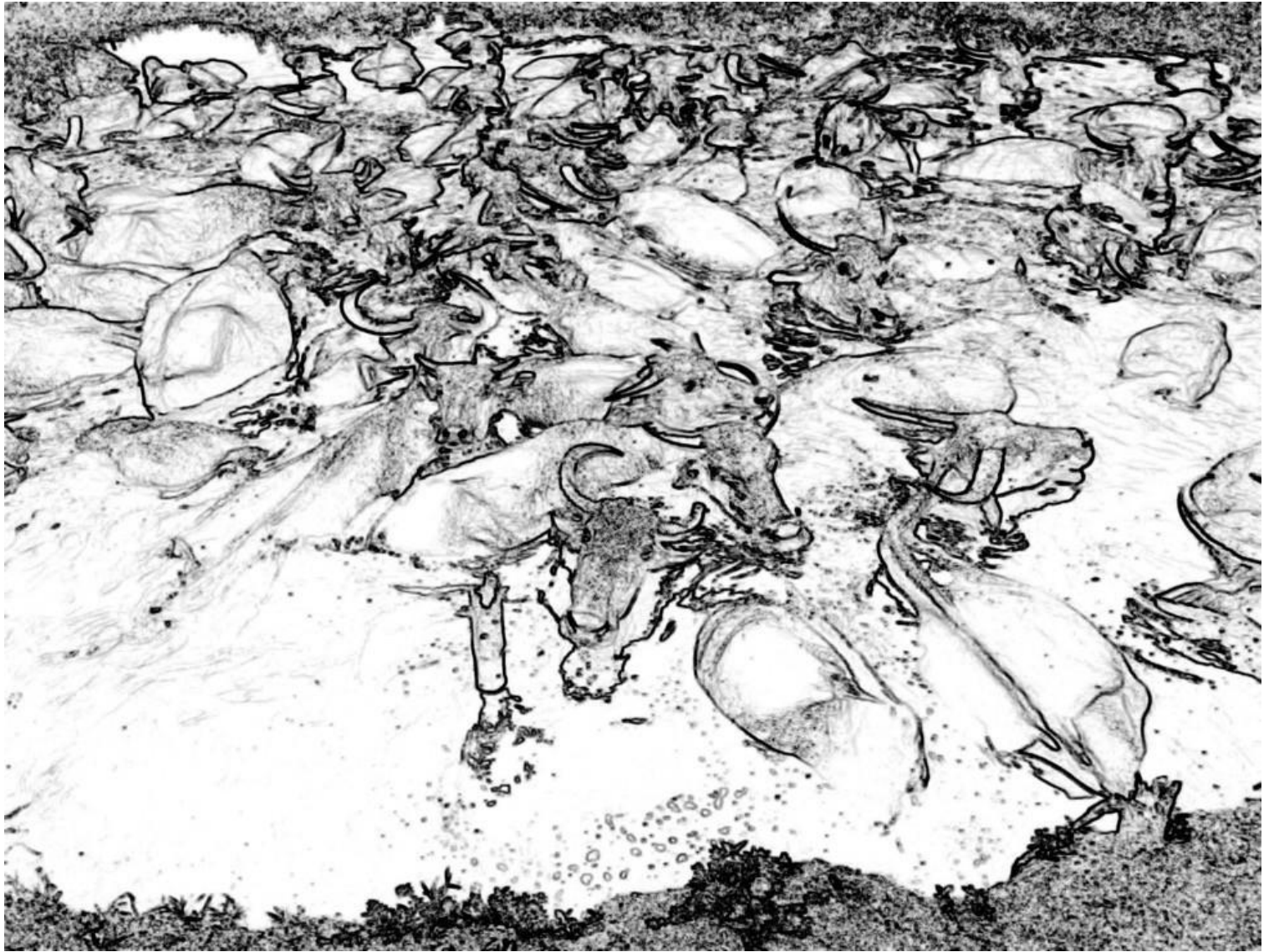


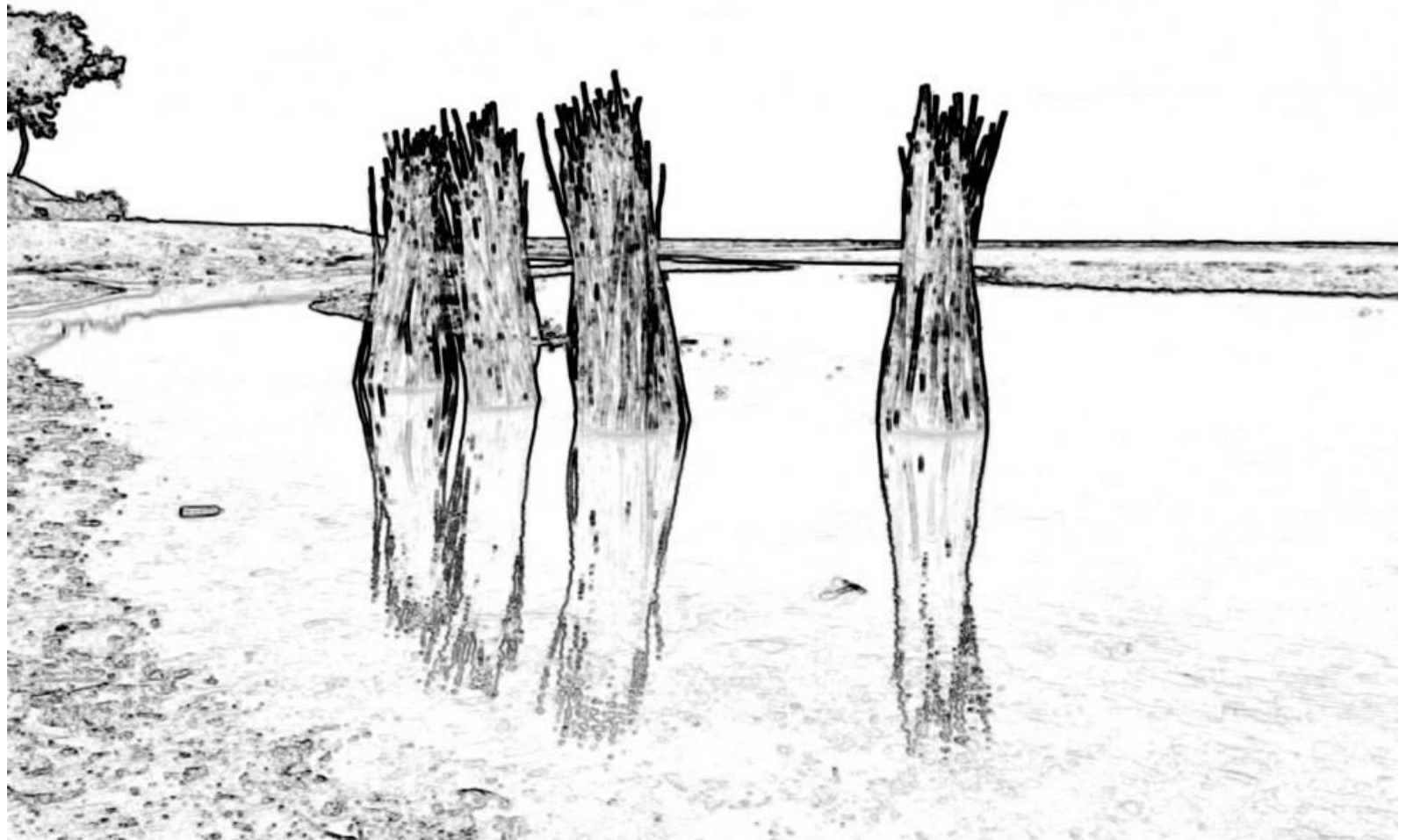




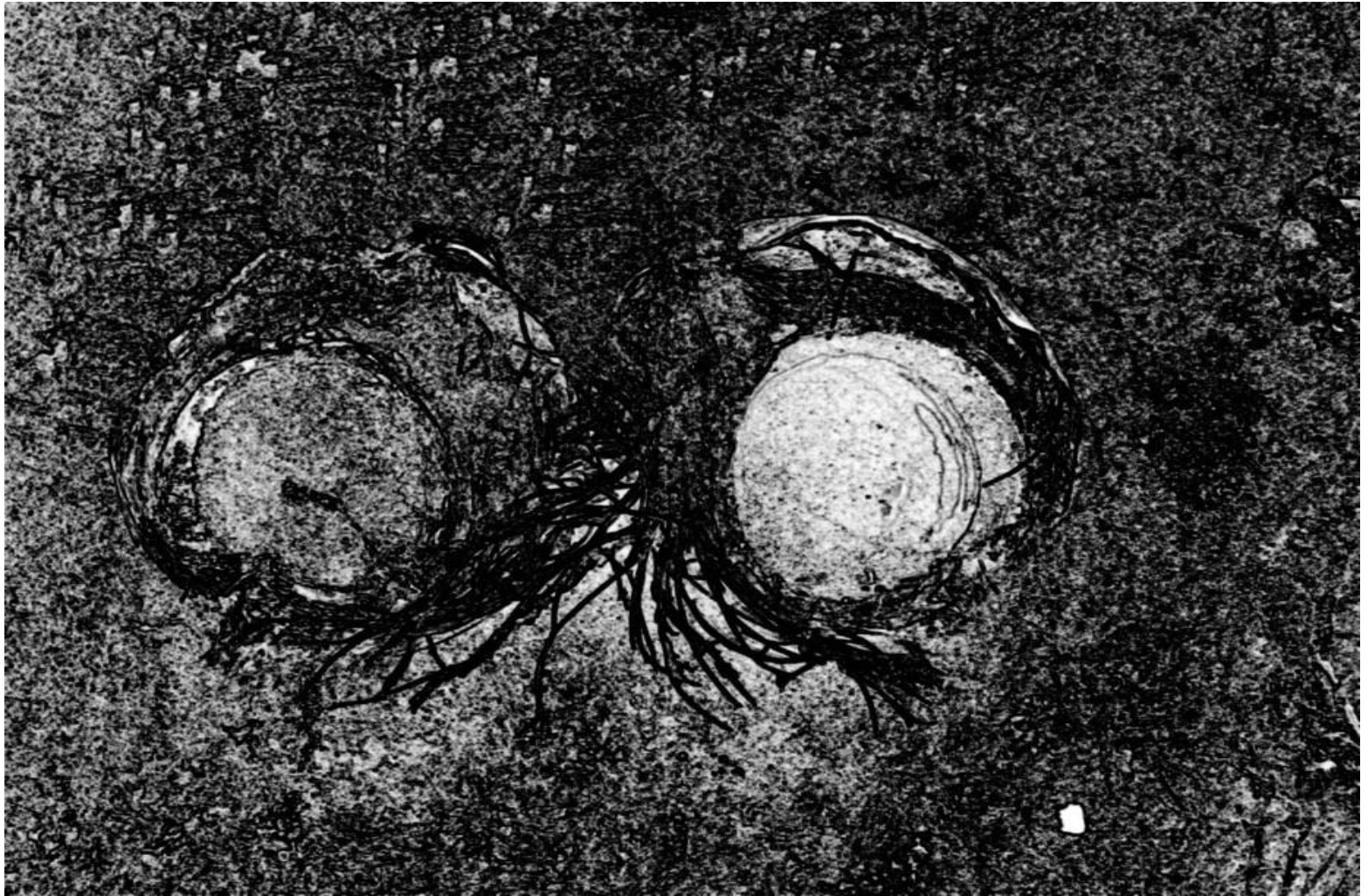


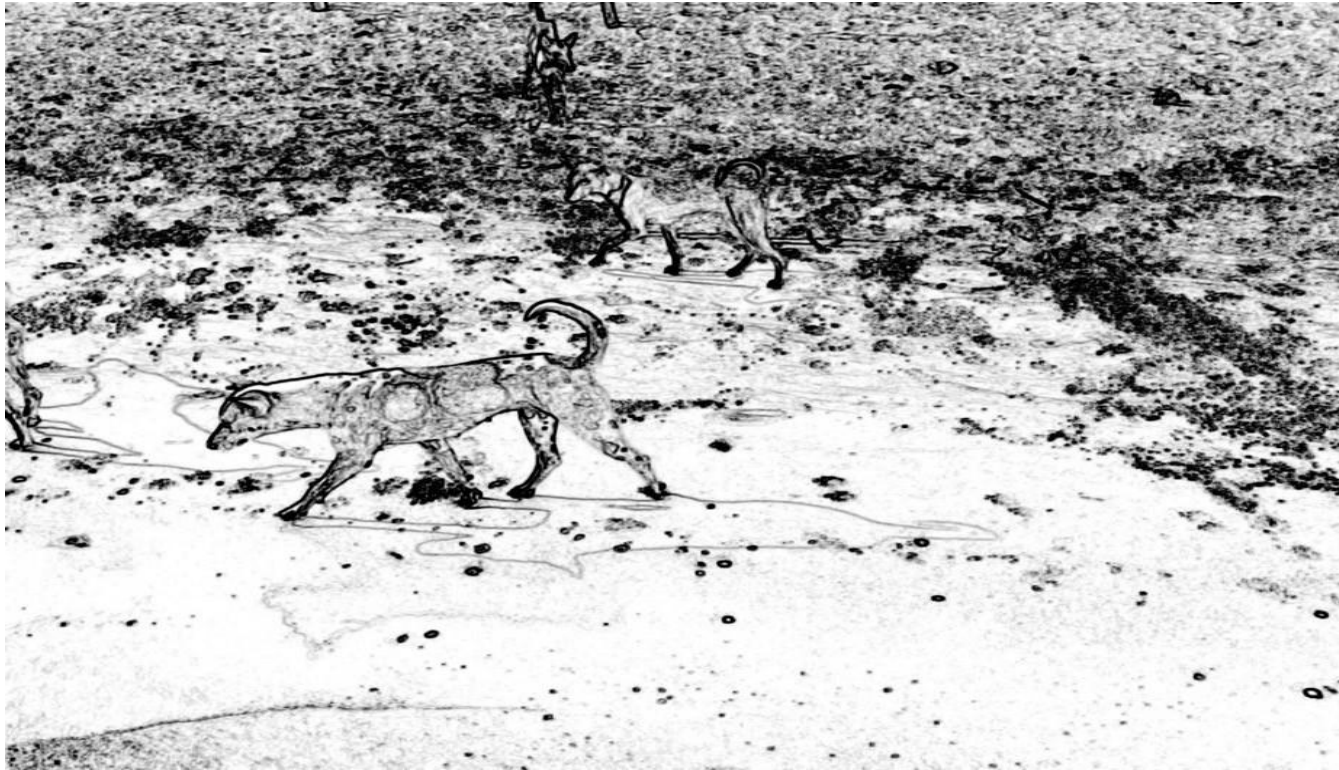












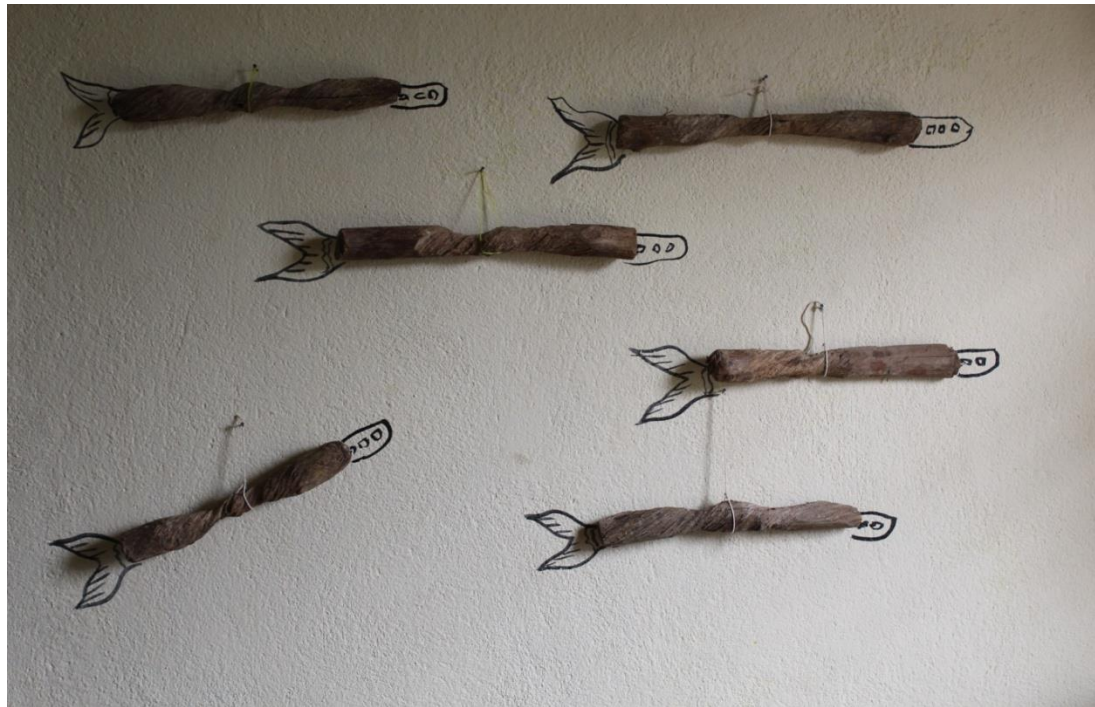
I have spent the last few years extensively documenting the change in Chilika by means of photographs, videos, audio recordings, collecting found objects, etc. These form the basis of an extensive archive that takes up a substantial part of my village home. I want to build on this archive using research, collaboration with local communities and new materials to highlight the ongoing ecological challenge in this beautiful lake. With these negative images through photography I hope to show the extremely sorry state of the Chilika scenery, ecosystem and life thanks to unthinking human depredations.

4th Report.



60x30x10cms. Fiver, drawing on paper, fish bones. 2017.

The art work speaks about the vital truth of consumerism of sea food especially where as I born the bank of ChilikaLake, paradise of Odisha and a state of migration birds from different region. Here nature pronounces the diversity between equality. How a beautiful language creates for the sublime nature where creature's voice is more beautiful than the human society, the society constructed the power and wealth for his luxurious life but paradoxically the thriving ecosystem and many species is going beneath. More use of pesticide, fertilizer and machine boat omitted to the natural cycle in Chilika, which has been seen since my childhood. The beautiful panorama is extinct now. One day our negligence for nature becomes irrational fear for our life Metaphorically , I connected the bone with my thought process, bone is the symbol of inanimate, and my collected fish bones refer that the Chilika Lake is going to be defunct as like without child mother is deceased. My installation work clears the enigma of nature and insatiable human society.



The beautiful work tells the story about the cycle of food culture, rapacious human and plutonic environment. It deals with the community and market where as the fishes is trading rather than prefabricate the environment and nature. Not only the fishing is the very decrepit process but the method of fish hunting is hazardous situation and transformation of ecosystem. Here the image consists of meticulous explorations of how huge number of fishing devastated to the Chilika's biodiversity as well as declines the fish offspring. Not only small but also bigger size of fishes, crabs and prawns are getting caught because of the growth of population and market demand. Naturally, it's a twirl process of monster. The cosmopolitan exigency gulps the glory of Chilika and simultaneously the bird's kingdom dies down for lack of natural food resources. Here I would like to show the lop-sidedness between the nature and human evolutionary psychology. Whereas our buying stuff has been right measurement; there are how we can ignore the imbalance nature and biodiversity. The fish market wood sticks symbolises the diminution of aquatic or amphibians. Metaphorically, the wood stick is the bone of fish which denotes the truth of dead and breathless Chilika as well as nature.



Size –10ftx2ftx1.5ft ,
 2nd- 6ftx2ftx1.5,
 3rd-4ftx2ftx1.5ft.
 stone
 2017

The interesting art work proves the natural process of nature, which is countered to politics, economical value, growth of industry and modern science. It's the story and myth of Chilika Lake. Chadhei Haga hill and Maa Kalijai temple hill have consisted celestial beauty. The root of farming and its process through nature is better than the modern technique. I would like to say that the Gendalia birds (Asian openbill stork) come to the farming land to take their food like insects' worms and conch shells and etc. Indirectly they are protector and cause of better harvesting whereas the modern society used more pesticide and fertilizers, which is declined the bird's kingdom. So... What the idea is the resting time of birds in the hill where they are shit. So we called that Chadhei Haga hill. In the second term the when fisherman catching the fish through the fishing net, at the same time the underwater stone collected and thrown to the hill, which stone covered a bird's shit layer.

But what happened at the present time, the stone does not have any layer that means the lack of birds. I collected the stone from the hill, which speaks the truth of destruction, dies down of bird's society, water pollution, terminate the beauty of nature. So, why are we disadvantaging for our next generation?

ARTIST

Mr.Pinaki Ranjan Mohanty

C/O-Dillip Kumar Mohanty, At-Golapur,
 PO -Nuagaonbadabhuin , Via-Bramhagiri
 District -Puri, Odisha-752011
 Email-pinakimohanty6@gmail.com
 Mobile No-9337435203