

The Neolithic Artist at Usgalimal, Goa - 25

The artistry of the many pictograms carved on the rocky-bed at Usgalimal is unique and incomparable. There is no other site like it.



Fig. 1 The carving on the rock



Fig. 2 Also carved on wood

The wood carving (fig.2), attempts to emphasize the subtle smaller images within the original figure that collectively seem to depict a human face. This view is only one of a more complex multi-faceted iconic figure that is very prominently located by the river-bed.

Before writing was invented, how the sculptor/artist - a Michelangelo Buonarroti of the Neolithic Period - would have signed his masterpieces? Could this be his signature? Since sculpting and painting was assumed to be mostly a male-oriented activity, he would most likely show the stone tools he used working day and night, under the starry sky by the candle and moonlight, with the vision of an eagle's eye. During all this time was sustained by eating mostly venison and perhaps honey-laced beverage!

Obviously, there are other interpretations that the readers may want to comment on.

Such a unique and valuable archaeological treasure at one site should be protected from further destruction and mineral exploitation of the land in the vicinity. It is our State and National heritage.