

Dr Meenakshi Dubey-Pathak (Bhopal, India)

Dr Meenakshi Dubey-Pathak has devoted more than thirty years of her life to the discovery, study, publications, exhibitions, workshops and protection of Indian rock art. During her many years of fieldwork, she discovered dozens of so-far unknown painted sites, mostly in the State of **Madhya Pradesh** and particularly in the Pachmarhi area about which she did her PhD, under the National Fellowship of UGC, NET. **Madhya Pradesh** is the richest state for the rock art sites in India, but she has also worked in other different states, such as **Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Ladakh.**

She is an International Expert member for rock art with ICOMOS and UNESCO, and she is a member of the Bradshaw Foundation Advisory Board (England) and Rock Art Network, Getty Foundation (USA).

She was awarded the high honour of '***Chevalier des Arts et Lettres***' -Knight in the National Order of Arts and Letters- by the French Minister of Culture and Communication in 2014.

She was awarded a Patrimony Bourse (Heritage Fellow) for 2019, by the Ministry of Culture, France.

She is a Wakankar Senior Research Fellow.

She has visited more than 40 painted caves in Europe and many rock art sites in different countries. She has given many lectures on Indian Rock Art and tribal Art in various National and International Universities and Museums. She has been promoting Indian rock art heritage worldwide

A film on the "Central Indian Rock Art and Tribal art ", based on her research work, was screened and awarded in the International Archaeology Film Festival in Nyon, Switzerland. March 2019.

She is an independent researcher, even if it is a big challenge to work as she does without having a job in

this field, particularly being a woman. In India she is the only woman working and researching consistently in that domain from last 32 years.

She is currently involved with research projects on Central Indian Rock art and Ethnic culture. Her scientific concerns are now mostly related to prehistoric rock art, in particular to its preservation and recording, the study of its archaeological context (to put it in a better anthropological and cultural perspective), and finally -and even mostly- to the problems of epistemology and the search for meaning. This involves working with Tribal people who still practice rock art and getting their testimonies, which is not too easy to do. To do so necessitates establishing contacts in a number of tribal villages, getting people's confidence and recording the sacred stories concerning their rock art and then going with them through the jungle to visit and study the painted sites.

Meenakshi Dubey-Pathak has published more than 100 papers and five books (three in English and one in French).

1. "*Rock Art of Pachmarhi Biosphere*", Delhi, BR Publications, 2012.
2. "*Des Images pour les Dieux. Art rupestre et Art tribal dans le Centre de l'Inde*" (with Jean Clottes). Arles (France), Éditions Errance, 2013.
3. "*Powerful Images. Rock Art and Tribal Art of Chhattisgarh*". With Jean Clottes. Bloomsbury Publications, 2017.
4. "*Madhya Pradesh Rock Art and Tribal Art*" with Jean Clottes. Aryans Publications, 2021.
5. "*Time and Meaning*" Indian Rock Art, with Jean Clottes. Research India Press, 2023.

<http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/india/pachmarhi/index.php>

<https://www.academia.edu/meenakshidubey-pathak>

http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/news/cave_art_paintings.php?page=all&id=Powerful-Images

https://www.bradshawfoundation.com/rockartnetwork/meenakshi_dubey_pathak.php

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