

STEEL SCULPTURAL INSTALLATION BY JATIN DAS, BHILAI CITY, 1996

DESTRUCTION AND VANDALISM, 1ST MARCH 2012



“FLIGHT OF STEEL” renamed as “MURGA CHOWK” in 1996 (Photo by Raghu Rai)

Dear Artists, Art lovers and Media Friends:

You'll be shocked to know that a steel sculptural installation, commissioned by the Bhilai Steel authority in 1996, which was land specific on a roundabout, 30 feet high and 30 feet all around, has vanished. On a recent visit to Bhilai, on 2nd March, 2012, I was shocked, surprised and saddened to see that there was no trace of the sculpture. The project took many months, of course, with the support and expertise of the entire team of The Steel Plant (engineers, welders and workers).

I was informed by the guard at site that (hundreds of tons of steel) the sculpture was taken away, all of it in one day, to the zoo known as Maitri Garden.

I rushed to the zoo and found bits and pieces of the sculpture dumped at two different locations as scrap. I was also informed by local people that the sculpture was painted in many colours some years ago. All this has happened without the knowledge of the artist.

The destruction also appeared in the local press.

As you know, the copyright of all artwork remains with the artist and nothing can be disfigured or destroyed by the owner.

It is ironical that in the month of March when my sculpture has been destroyed, in the same month I am being awarded Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.

I would like to request all my friends and concerned citizens to come forward and condemn the vandalism by sending the rejoinder. Kindly forward this email to your friends.

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Sculpture Pieces at the Zoo, Maitri Garden



Sculpture being dismantled

“DISMANTLING OF THE SCULPTURE”, 1st March, 2012 (Photo taken by an artist)



**NAVBHARAT – DURG BHILAI “DESTRUCTION OF THE SCULPTURE”, 2nd March 2012.
DESTRUCTION OF THE SCULPTURE**