



Sadashiv Sathe - sculptors

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“SALT OF THE NATION”

Sculpture in Form and spirit, as conceived by Sadashiv Sathe for
‘Dandi March Memorial’ - Dandi

Its indeed my great pleasure and honor to have been approached by Prof. Kirti Trivedi, of IIT Mumbai, with a request to conceive and conceptualize a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, for the ambitious ‘Dandi March Memorial’ at Dandi.

I have found the entire project, its theme and design, very interesting. It is a unique concept, the best ever conceived in India and thought-provoking. It symbolizes the beginning of an epic struggle. The most striking feature of the scheme is to involve the visitor, physically and emotionally, in the whole panorama. Thus he too will be an inseparable part of the monument.

The main sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi forms the central feature of the entire scheme. Its placement and the orientation at the end of the pathway, has been planned very thoughtfully. It will give the visitor a feeling of being a part of the march which the great leader leads, and will experience the thrill of this novel idea of civil disobedience, ‘The Satyagraha’.

As an artist, when I started thinking about the main sculpture, I realised that it is a challenging job for any creative artist. This novel form of protest had ultimately steamrolled into a nation-wide movement for independence. I have made various sketch models for the statue, but the one being presented is of my choice, and in my opinion captures the spirit of the great event.

While making a statue of a legendary person like the Mahatma, I never think of him as a mere physical form. To my mind he has a distinct aura about him, which is colored by his deeds, ideals and service to humanity. Thus ‘Gandhiji’ is much more than his physical form. His vision, leadership and sacrifices, are all a part of him, and a creative sculptor must embody all these qualities in the shape of his sculpture.

So when I visualize Gandhiji’s form in a sculpture, I hope to suggest all his qualities besides the physical form, namely his intrepid ‘satyagraha’, his firm belief in truth, his vision, ideals and a strong will to get justice. His face looks forward with greater firmness, full of resolve to break the fetters of British rule. The broad stole that is draped on his shoulders and covers his slender frame as seen by his followers suggests the enormous form that his movement of civil disobedience is destined to assume in the near future.

The sketch model being presented before the committee is the first expression of my concept. It shows only a form and a posture of the proposed sculpture, without any realistic details of Gandhiji’s face and physique. There is much scope for its development and creative additions when the concept is approved and the work is assigned to me.

Sadashiv Sathe- Sculptor.