❖ **English Department (2016-17)**

❖ **Talk-cum-Exhibition on *Gond* Painting**

The Department also organized a Talk-cum-Exhibition on *Gond* Paintings: Articulating Bhimyana by Roshni Vyam on 20th October, 2016. The speaker was Roshni Vyam, daughter of well-known Gond artists Durgabhai and Subhash Vyam who did the artwork for "Bhimyana: Experiences of Untouchability." After the talk there was an exhibition of Roshni Vyam's paintings. For *Gond* paintings, mapping the lineage is the most problematic area which is equally so in folk and tribal arts because of the limited availability of archival resources or objects, the inherent impermanence of the materials and methods involved in the creative process. The historical evolution of '*Gond*', or *Pardhan* painting or '*Jangarh kalam*,' has to be understood in this background. The talk cum exhibition was also vocal about communities of around four million people spread all over central India: *Gonds* have a recorded/archival history of 1400 years. The students were made aware of the word '*Gond*' that comes from the Dravidian expression '*Kond*' which means 'green mountain' and its subsequent historical/archival value.

The Talk expressed the work of Pictorial art on walls and floors that has been part of the domestic life of *Gonds*, especially among *Pardhans* since it is done with the construction and re-construction of each and every house, with local colors and materials like charcoal, coloured soil, plant sap, leaves, cow dung, lime stone powder, etc. The images are tattoos or minimalist human and animal forms. It was an immensely useful talk for the students. The department organized this talk not only to enrich the students with the art and culture of a community but to also make them understand the dynamics of India's artistic/cultural heritage and their being embedded in to the organic materials coming from the grassroots. 47 students participated in the event.

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