

Relief works on Kalobari (Black house),
Santiniketan



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work, plus, the cost of plaster. And even the method itself is somewhat mechanical. Where's the zeal in it? And look at the second one—the working style is simple and completely spontaneous. Of course, it is spontaneous. It's such joy to work directly. The work is a lot more fun.'

'Kinkarda, please explain this direct style a bit more—how you go about it, how you progress. After all, this is how you have done most of your work, including almost all of the big projects.'

'It's not as if I follow the same formula for every work. That depends on the mind. But in general, when an idea strikes the mind, it is first captured in a sketchbook. Rough sketch, with no details. It's not as if there's just one sketch. There could be several of them, from different angles. That's because what I would be making would be a sculpture, not an image—round, not flat.

'Next, a small maquette would be made in clay—a small one. That too, would just be a resemblance of the real thing. Maybe with a little bit of detail, just a little. And then...'

Bursts of restrained laughter interrupt Kinkarda's words. At such times, his expression changes. Becomes unfathomable. Is it laughter or tears, or something else?

I ask with eagerness, 'And then?'

'Then what? I am in the grip of a frenzy as it were. Even when I eat or sleep, that little statue doesn't let go of me. It keeps hovering around me. I wake up at night