

ART HISTORY

Paleolithic Art

PREHISTORIC ART: THE BEGINNING

Although human beings have been walking upright for millions of years, it was not until 25,000 years ago that our forebears invented art. Sometime during the last glacial epoch, when hunter gatherers were still living in caves, the Neanderthal tool-making mentality gave way to the Cro-Magnon urge to make images.

The first art objects were created not to adorn the body or decorate the cavern but out of an attempt to control or appease natural forces. These symbols of animals and people had supernatural significance in magic powers

PREHISTORIC ART: THE BEGINNING II

Our hunter gatherer ancestors lived in small nomadic groups and created creative works of arts and architecture as early as the upper later Paleolithic. 42,000 to 8,000 BCE. During this time the glaciers of the last Ice Age still covered northern stretches of Europe North America and Asia. Some of the most ancient examples of Paleolithic art or small figures or figurines of people and animals made of bone ivory stone or clay these three-dimensional pieces are examples of **sculpture in the round** Prehistoric carvers also produced relief sculptures in stone, Bone, or Ivory. In a **relief sculpture** the surrounding material is carved away forming a background that sets off the figure

TO SUMMARIZE

- Hunter & gathering
- People lived in small nomadic groups
- Glaciers of the last ice age still covered northern stretches of Europe, North America, and Asia

CHARACTERISTICS OF ART

- Mostly small figures or figurines, of people and animals
- Materials used include bones, ivory, stone and clay
- Women as more frequent subjects
- Sculpture shows an aesthetic sense and the ability to pose and solve problems

SCULPTURE

The oldest surviving art objects or sculptures are made from bone, ivory, stone or antlers. These were either **engraved** (by **incising** an outline figure with a sharp tool), carved in deep relief, or fully rounded three-dimensional sculptures.



BISON





LION HUMAN

FROM HOHLENSTEIN-STADEL

Lion-Human

From Hohlenstein-Stadel, Germany

c. 30,000 - 26,000 BCE

Mammoth Ivory

height 29.6cm

Ulmer Museum, Ulm, Germany

WOMAN FROM BRASSEMPOUY





WOMAN FROM BRASSEMPOUY

THE VENUS OF WILLENDORF



LANDSCAPE

- Around 8,000 BCE in Europe
- Development of organized agriculture
- Practice of animal husbandry
- Foundation of permanent, year-round settlements
- Introduction of metalworking (Bronze Age, 2300 BCE in Europe)

CAVE PAINTING

The first “paintings” were probably made in caves approximately 15,000 years ago. These pictures of bison, deer, horses, cattle, mammoth and boars are located in the most remote recesses of the caves far from the inhabited sunlit entrances.

Archaeologist speculate artist created the animal images to guarantee a successful hunt. Many are portrayed pierced with arrows, and gouges in the rock indicate cave-dwellers may have flung spears at the painted game.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29S8nbHHnuo> Lascaux Cave Fly Through

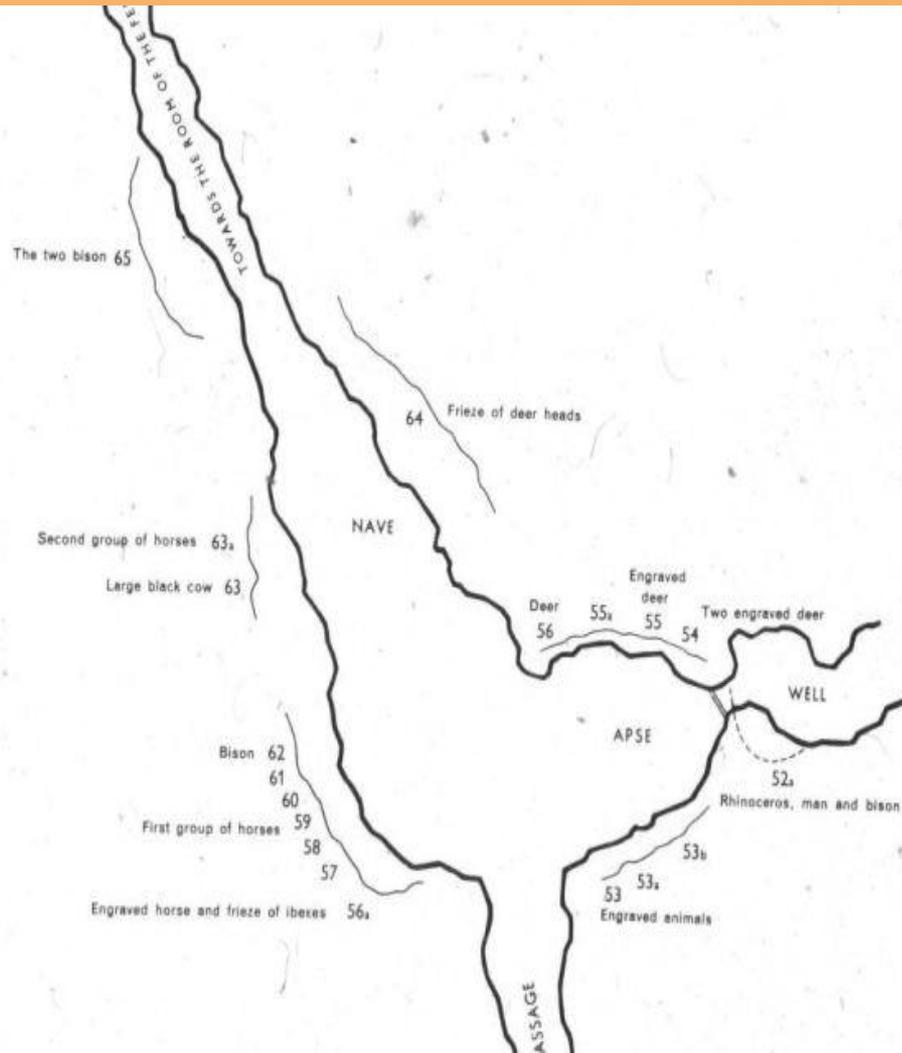
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHKX-xPleoE> Cave Replica



PAINTING BY LAMP LIGHT



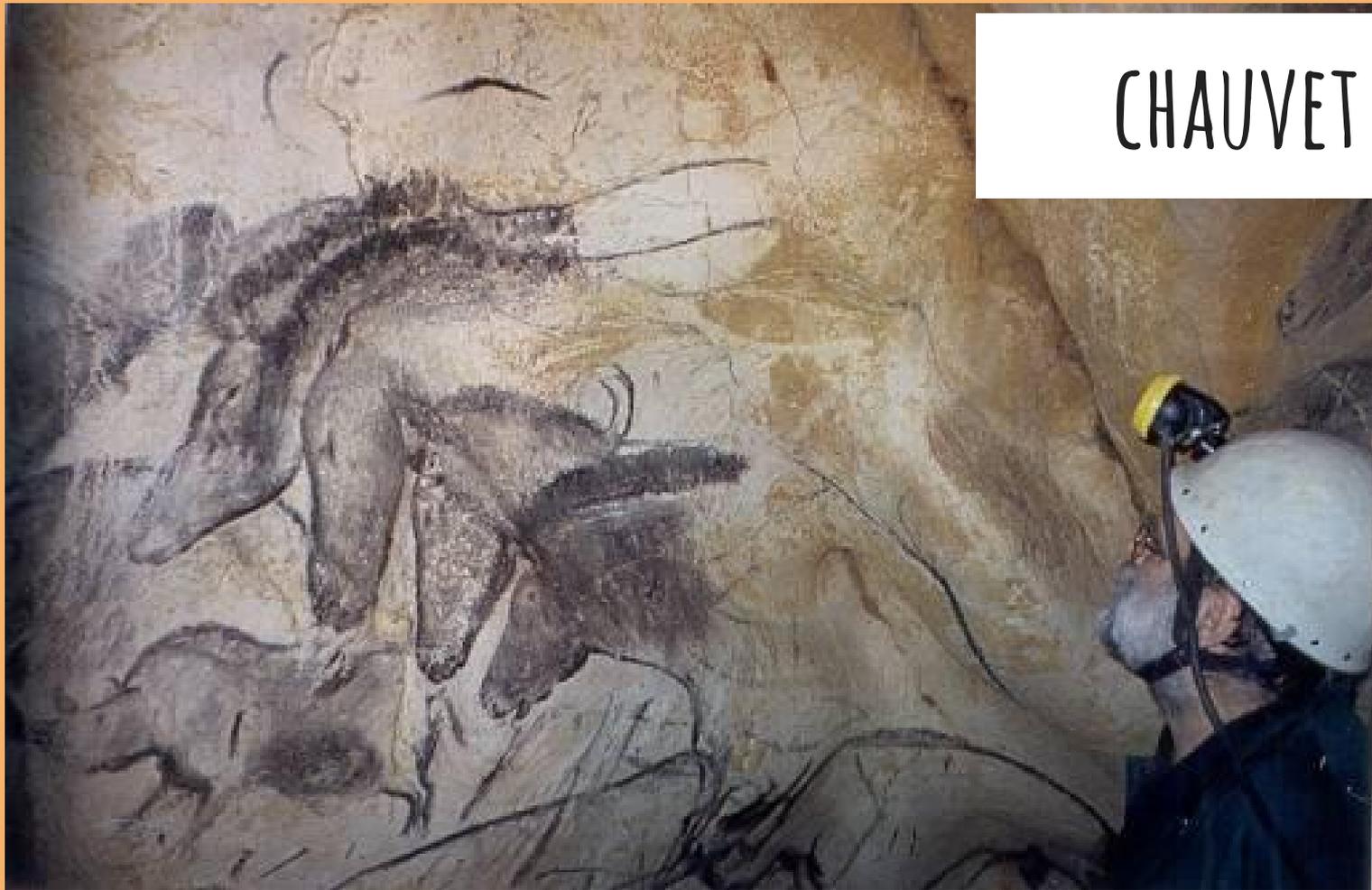
LASCAUX CAVE



LASCAUX, FRANCE



CHAUVET CAVE



CHAUVET CAVE



CHAUVET CAVE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qylfPbn0RDs>

CHARACTERISTICS OF ART

- Composition shows that the ritual of making the painting is more important than the finished work
- Rock engraving: pecking designs into rock with stone tools
- Used red and brown pigments derived from manganese dioxide.

FIRST ARCHITECTURE

Once the glaciers receded the climate grew more temperate and the Paleo-Lithic or old stone age was replaced by the Neo-lithic new Stone Age early human beings emerge from caves to become herdsman and farmers and with the now secure food supply they begin crafting the first monumental sculpture as early as 5000 BC colossal architecture of massive, upright stones appeared. These took three basic forms: the dolmen, consisting of large, vertical stones with a covered slab like a giant table, the menhir, or single stone set on its end (the largest is 164 feet long weighing 350 tons) and a cromlech, or circular arrangement of stones, such as Stonehenge.

STONEHENGE; ENGLAND'S FIRST ROCK GROUP

In the Middle Ages this mysterious group of stones was believed to be either the creation of an ancient race of giants or conjured by Merlin the Magician, who allegedly transplanted it from Ireland. Actually it seems to be an accurate astronomical calendar. The outer ring consists of trilithons, or II shaped rocks like gigantic doorways. Next comes a ring of smaller upright stones like cemetery gravemarkers, then a horseshoe of carefully finished trilithons 13'6" high. Isolated from these concentric circles is a heel-stone, marking where the sun rises in the East at the summer solstice. at Karnak in the French province of Brittany.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRMFRiydorQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rB0un0AL5MA>

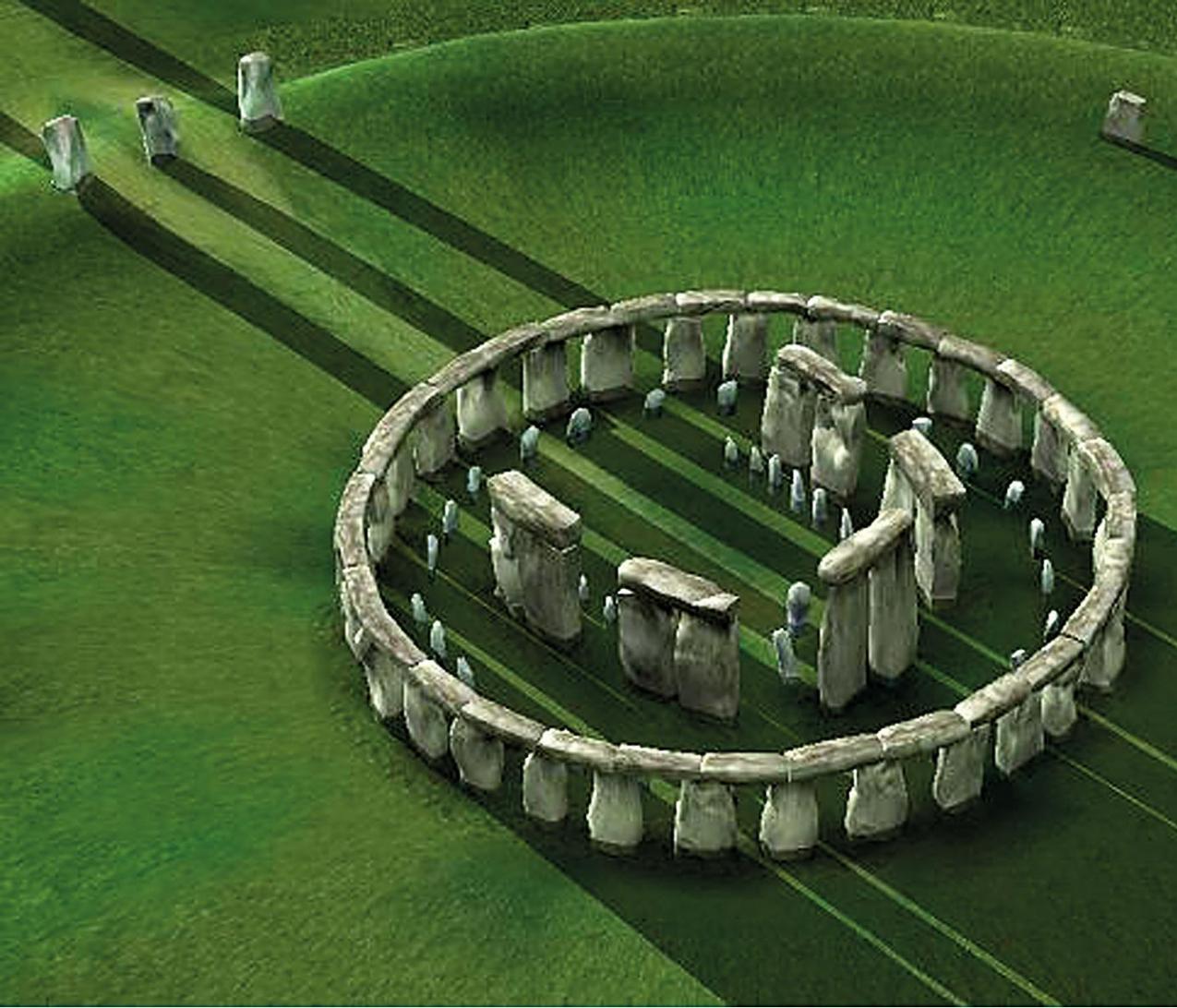
STONEHENGE; ENGLAND'S FIRST ROCK GROUP

At Carnac in the French province of Brittany, rows of thousands of megaliths (large, unhewn boulders up to 12' high) stretch for several miles, a dozen or so abreast in parallel lines. Local legend has it that these rows represent columns of Roman soldiers, changed to stone by the resident saint. More likely, they were associated with worship of the sun or moon.

pg. 5 The Annotated Mona Lisa

STONEHENGE



An aerial, isometric-style illustration of a proposed Stonehenge layout. The structure consists of a large outer circular ring of standing stones, with several smaller inner structures including a central rectangular arrangement and a smaller circular one. The stones are light grey and set on a vibrant green field. Long, dark shadows are cast from the stones, indicating a low sun position. In the upper left, a separate line of five standing stones is visible. The entire scene is presented in a clean, digital art style.

POSSIBLE
STONEHENGE

STONEHENGE

1877



ART PROJECT

Using the clay in the art room, create a sculpture of a pre-historic animal, that fits in the palm of your hand.

Make sure to score and/or slip the small pieces such as the legs and ears on so they stay.

When complete use a loop tool and hollow out the bottom of the sculpture.

Pictures of

Bison, Antelope, Reindeer, etc