

Chapter 1: The Stone Age



STONE AGE:

PALEOLITHIC ART

40,000 - 9,000 BCE

NEOLITHIC ART

9,000-2300 BCE

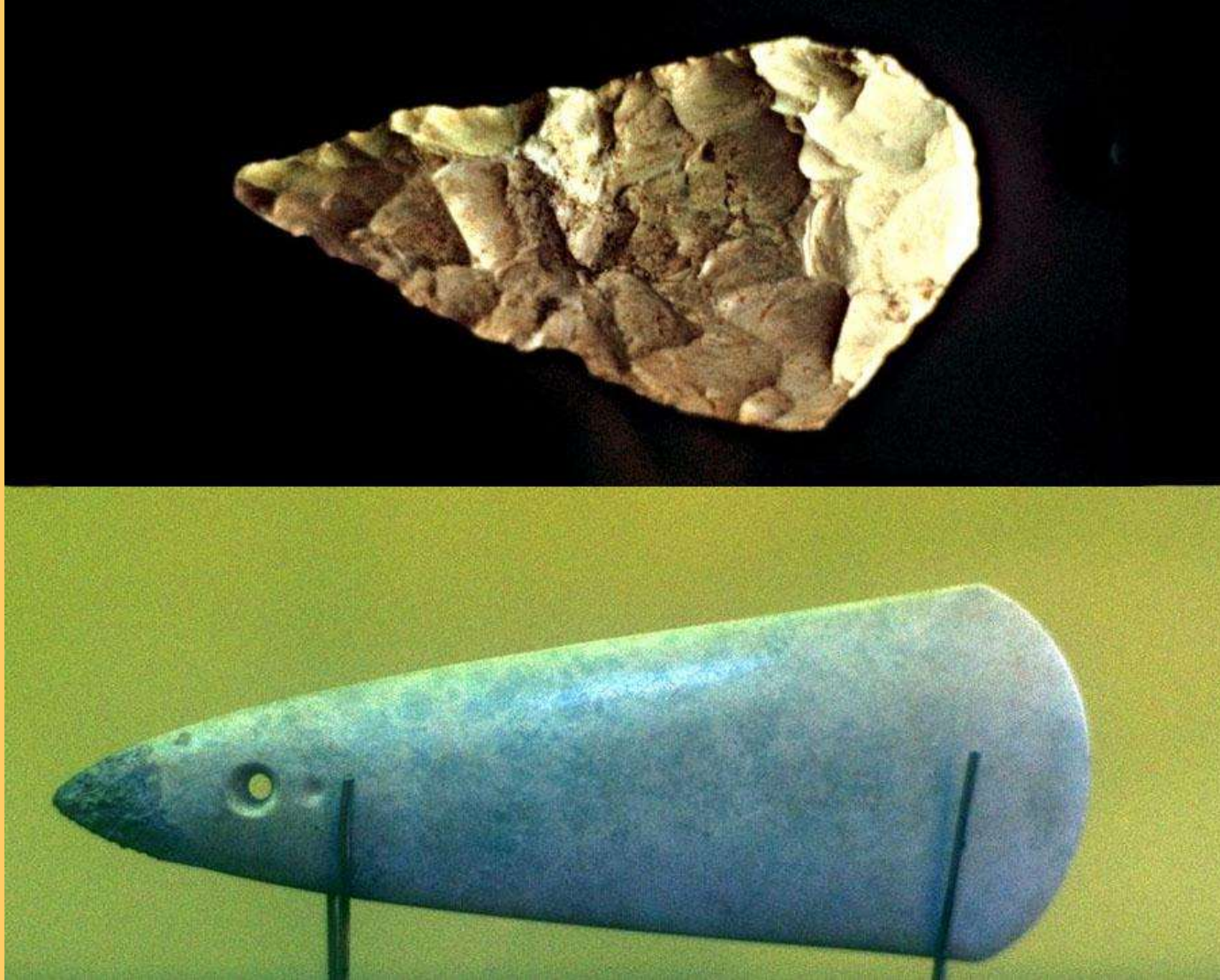
Paleo = old (Greek)

Neo = new

Lithos = stone



Cutting and punching tools. 24,000 BCE. Dordogne. France. Silex



Comparison of Axes

T: Paleolithic, 400,000 BCE. France. B: Neolithic, 4000 BCE. France

Dating System of the Gregorian Calendar

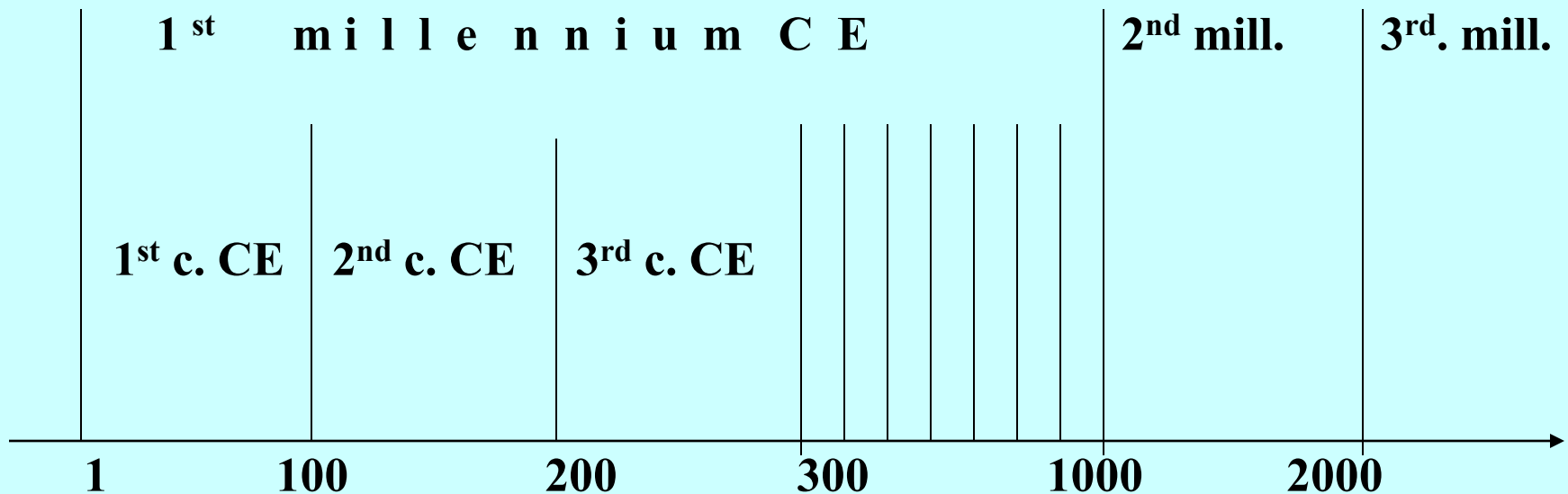
Century= 100 years

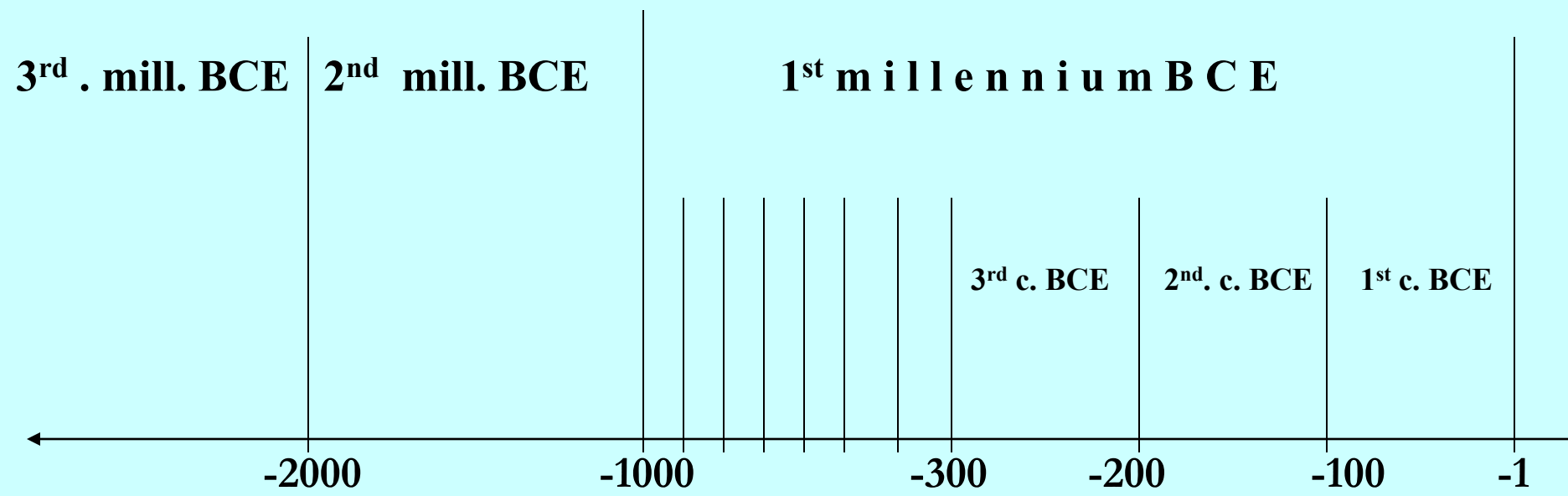
Millennium= 1000 years

CE= Common Era (AD)

BCE= Before Common Era (BC)

ca.=circa=about





Year	Century	Millennium
1542 CE	16 th c.	2nd mill.
583 BCE	6 th c. BCE	1 st mill. BCE
1013 CE		
5750 BCE		
100 CE		
2006 CE		
2 BCE		
1750 BCE		
2306 BCE		
258 CE		
	Early 7 th c. BCE	
		Late 1 st mill CE

Is this a work of art?

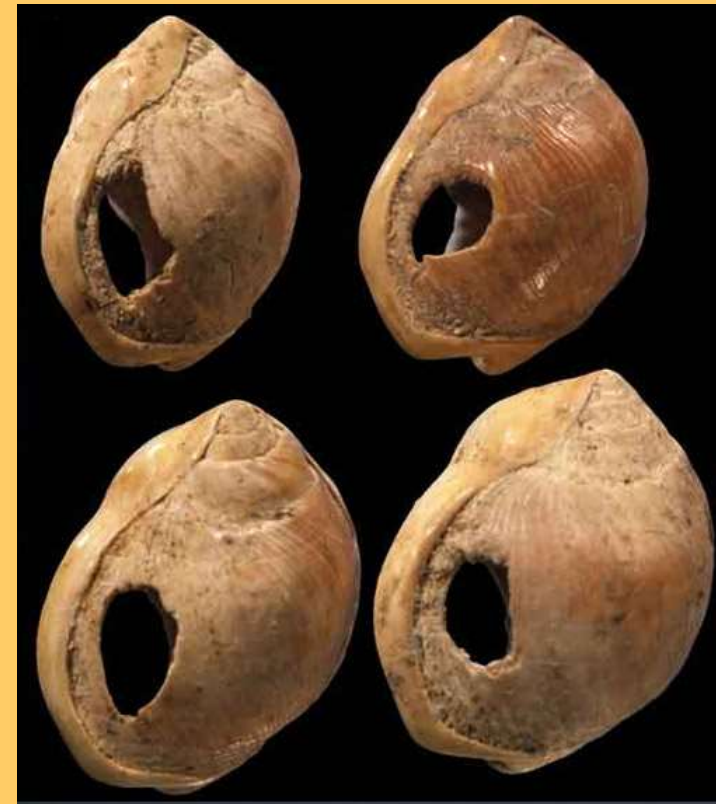
Waterworn pebble resembling a human face, from Makapansgat, South Africa, ca. 3,000,000 BCE. Reddish brown jasperite, approx. 2 3/8" wide.





Red ochre stone from Blombos Cave, South Africa (crayon with tally marks?), 75, 000 BCE

Shell Beads from Blombos Cave. Use-wear, indicates the shells having being strung and worn



Paleolithic (Representational) Art
c. 40,000-9000 BCE

Paleolithic Sculpture

Representation: the presenting again – in different and substitute form – of something observed.

40-35,000 BCE – first works of art



Woolly Mammoth Figurine from Germany.

3.7 cm (1.5 inch) long. 35,000 BCE

(It is believed to be the oldest ivory carving ever found.)



Bison with turned head, fragmentary spearthrower, from La Madeleine, Dordogne, France, ca. 12,000 BCE. Reindeer horn. 4" long

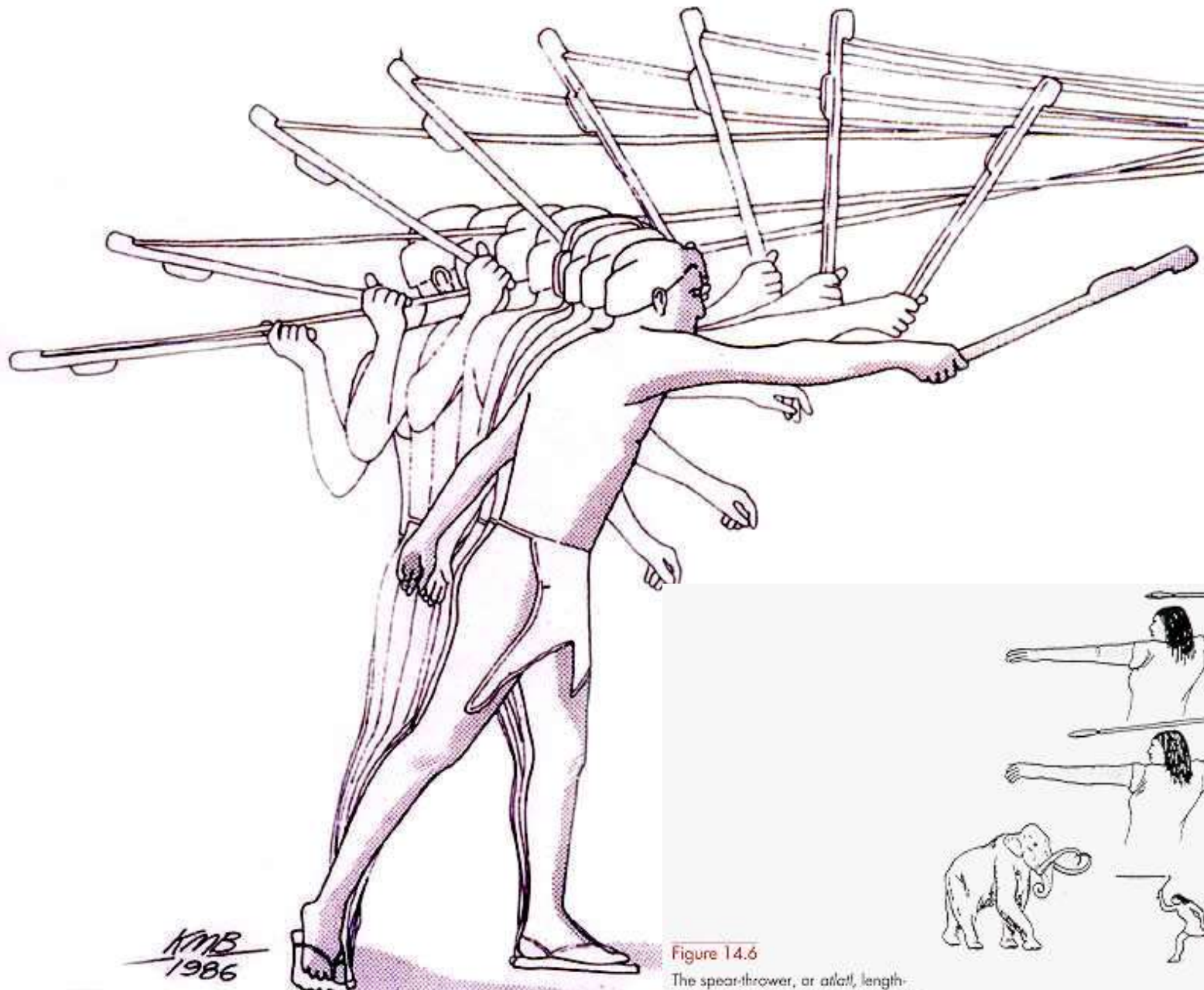
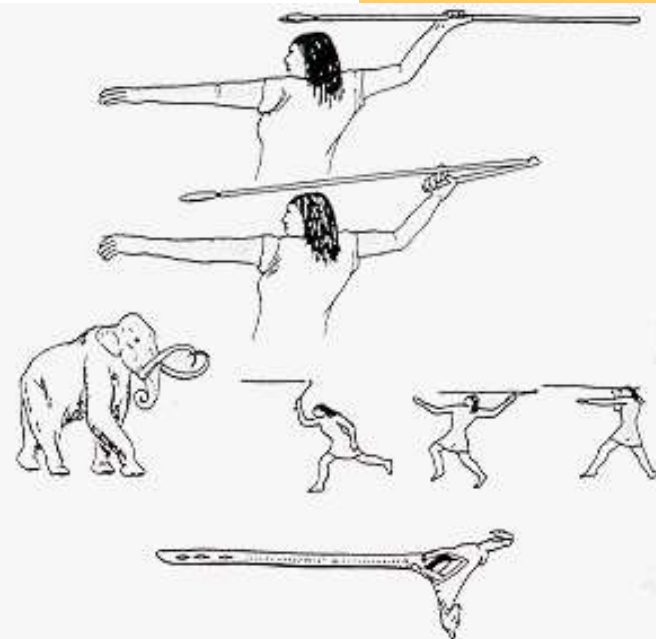


Figure 14.6

The spear-thrower, or *woomera*, lengthens the arm and permits the spear to be thrown with more force over a longer distance. [Figure courtesy of Richard Klein.]



Freestanding Sculpture

A type of sculpture that is surrounded on all sides by space. Also called sculpture in-the-round.

Venus of Willendorf

from Willendorf

Austria, ca. 28,000–25,000 BCE

Limestone, approx. 4 1/4" high





Relief: In sculpture, figures projecting from a background of which they are part. The degree of relief is designated high, low or sunken.



Woman holding a bison horn
from Laussel, Dordogne, France,
ca. 25,000–20,000 BCE. Painted
limestone 1' 6" high

- The **cornucopia**, also known as the **Horn of Plenty**, is a symbol of food and plenty.
- In Greek mythology, Amalthea raised Zeus on the milk of a goat. In return Zeus gave Amalthea the goat's horn. It had the power to give to the person in possession of it whatever he or she wished for.

Woman holding a bison horn
from Laussel, Dordogne, France,
ca. 25,000–20,000 BCE. Painted
limestone 1' 6" high



Female relief.

Dordogne. France

c. 25000 BCE.

Limestone



**Woman holding a
bison horn**

from Laussel,
Dordogne, France,
ca. 25,000–20,000
BCE. Painted
limestone 1' 6" high



Venus of Willendorf

from Willendorf, Austria, ca.
28,000–25,000 BCE Limestone,
approx. 4 1/4" high

Woman from Ostrava
Petrkovice, Czech Republic
c. 23,000 BCE. Hematite,
height 1 ³/₄" (4.6 cm)



Radiocarbon dating:

The determination of the approximate age of an organic object by measuring the amount of carbon 14 it contains.

The technique is most accurate for material no more than 50,000 years old.

**Human with feline
(Lion/Lioness?) head**, from
Hohlenstein-Stadel, Germany,
ca. 40,000-35,000 BCE
Mammoth ivory, 11 5/8" high.







Upper-Paleolithic Burin
(chisel-like tool)



Paleolithic Painting

Paleolithic Cave Paintings

Paints were manufactured from combinations of minerals, ochres, burnt bone meal and charcoal mixed into mediums of water, blood, animal fats and tree saps.



World's Oldest Cave Art—Made by Neanderthals?

Hand stencils. El Castillo cave, Spain. 38,800 BCE

The researchers used a uranium decay technique to date the substance that encrusts the wall paintings — a mineral called calcite. The art beneath is presumably somewhat older than the crust.



Cave of Pettakere, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Hand stencils estimated between 33,000-38,000 BCE

Prehistoric Europe and the Near East



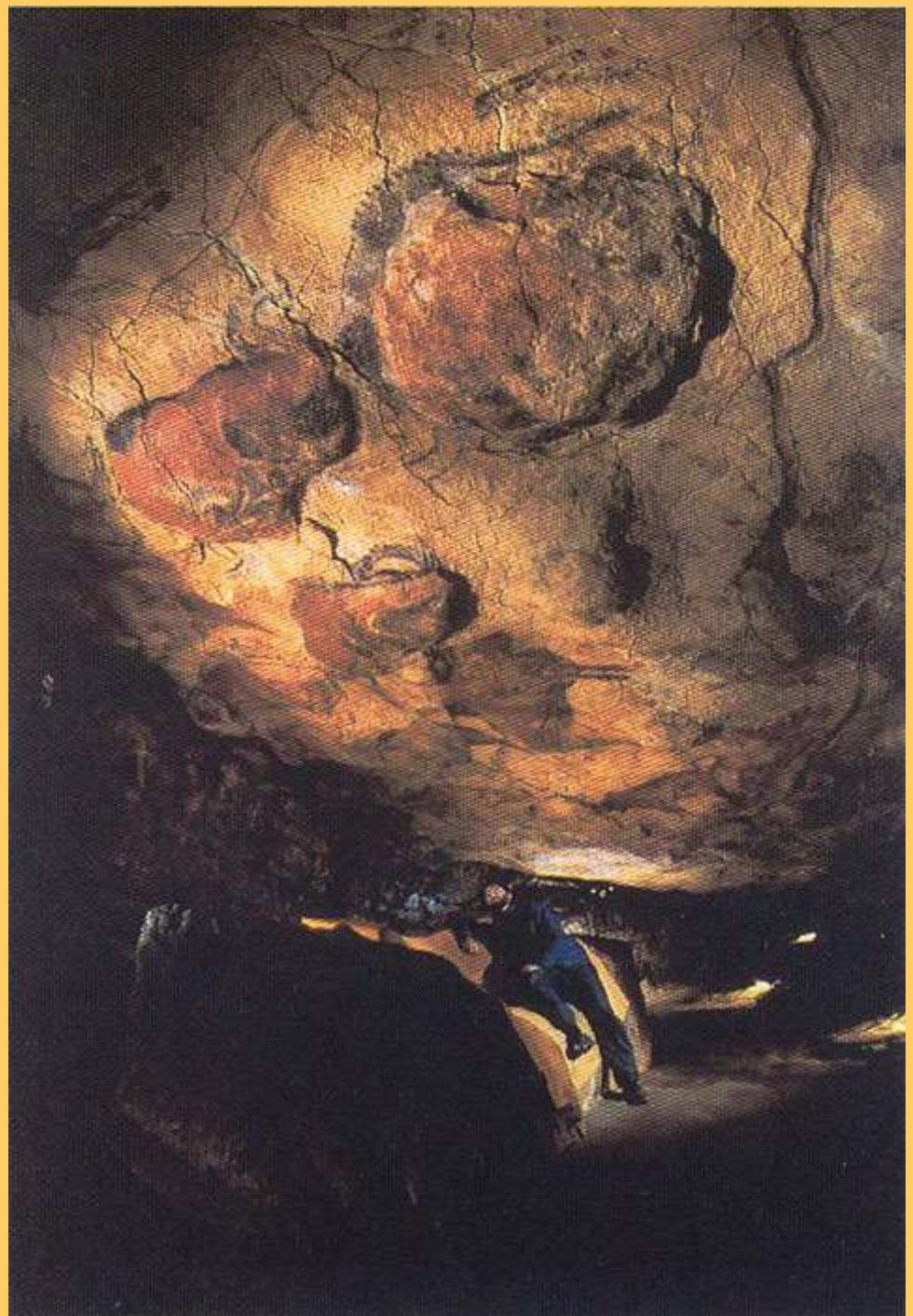


Aurochs (extinct wild oxen), horses, and rhinoceroses, wall painting in Chauvet Cave, Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, Ardèche, France, ca. 30,000–28,000 BCE or 15,000-13,000BCE. Approx. half life-size.

1879: Marcelino Sautuola discovered
the paintings in *Altamira*

[https://youtu.be/eQWK
pKbvc9M](https://youtu.be/eQWKpKbvc9M)
4:49

Bison. *Altamira* cave, Santander, Spain
ca. 12,000–11,000 BCE
Paint on limestone

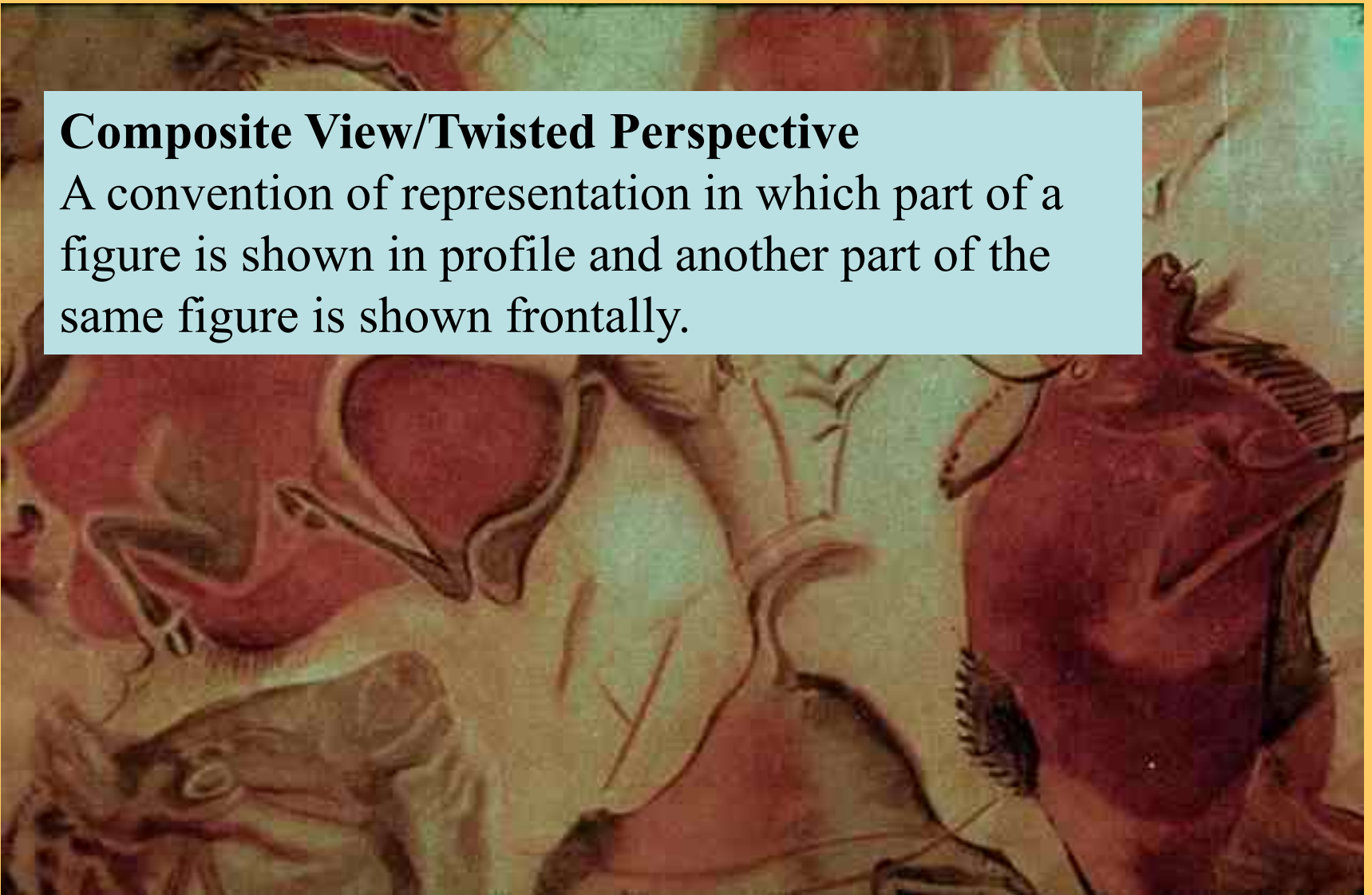


Bison. Altamira cave
Santander, Spain
ca. 12,000–11,000 BCE
Each bison approx. 5' long



Composite View/Twisted Perspective

A convention of representation in which part of a figure is shown in profile and another part of the same figure is shown frontally.



Bison. Detail of a painted ceiling in the Altamira cave. Copy. Santander, Spain. 12,000–11,000 BCE (Magdalenian Culture)

Bison. Detail of a painted ceiling in the Altamira cave.

Copy. Santander, Spain.
12,000–11,000 BCE
(Magdalenian Culture)



Aurochs (extinct wild oxen), horses, and rhinoceroses, wall painting in Chauvet Cave, Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, Ardèche, France, ca. 30,000–28,000 BCE. Approx. half life-size.



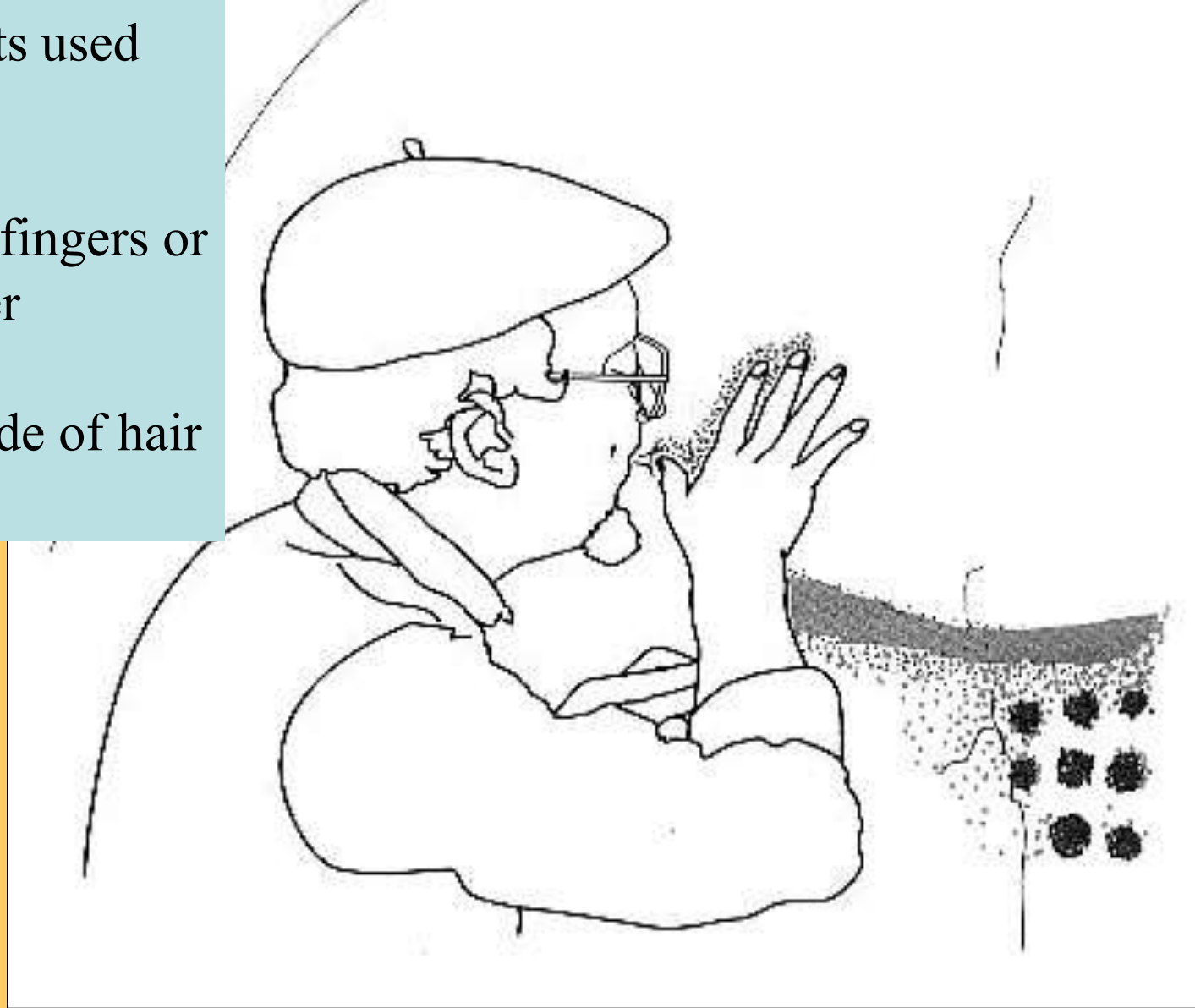
Spotted horses and negative hand imprints

wall painting in the cave at Pech-Merle, Lot, France, ca. 22,000 BCE. 11' 2" long.

Cro-Magnon artists used three techniques:

1. Spraying
2. Drawing with fingers or blocks of ocher
3. Daubing with paintbrush made of hair or moss.

<https://youtu.be/IN0ODP2c-kc>



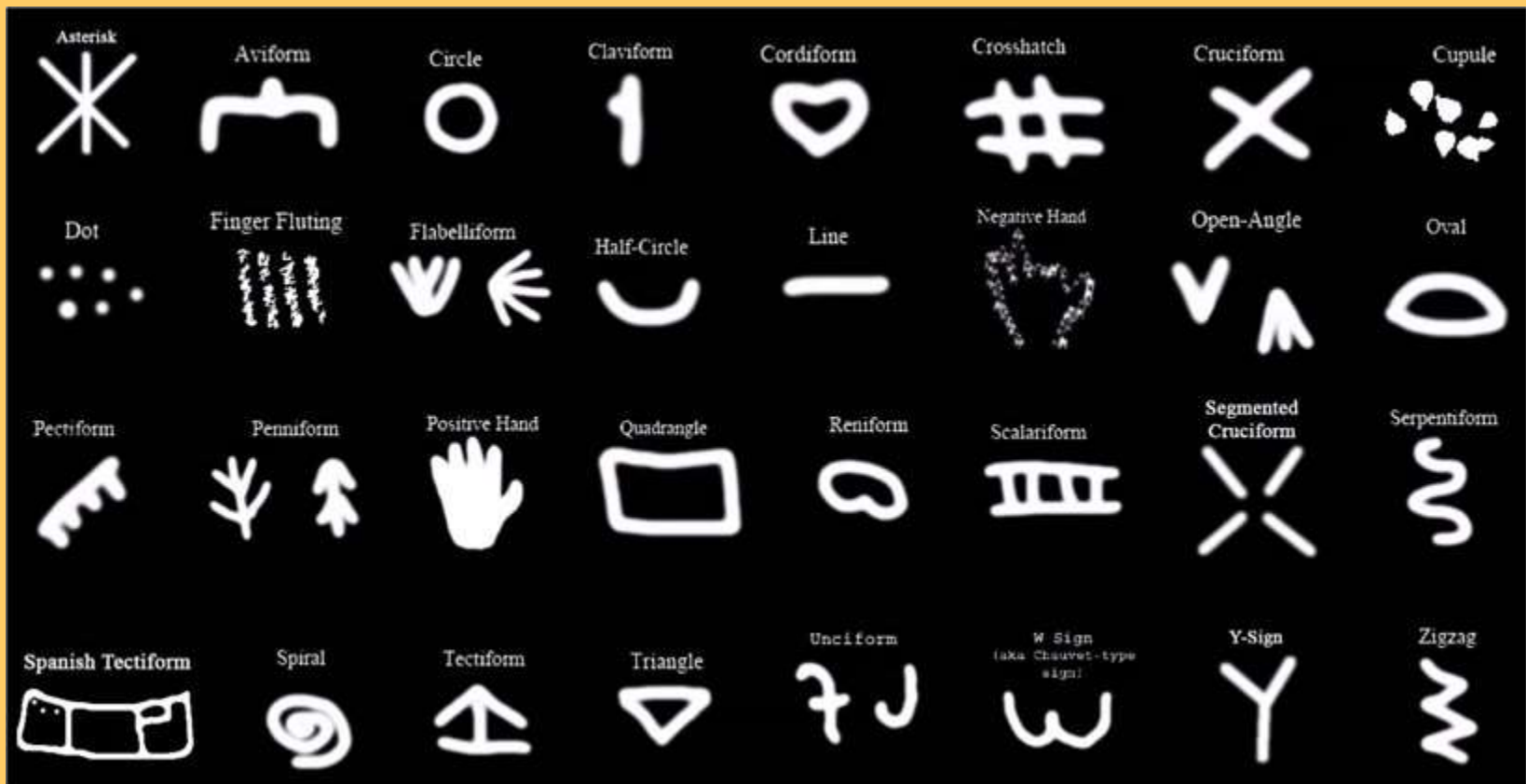
Michel Lorblanchet, a cave archeologist, demonstrating a prehistoric painting technique. It took him only 32 hours to complete the horses, his speed suggesting that a single artist created the original.



Abstract/Non-representational art:
Compositions which do not rely on naturalistic representation.



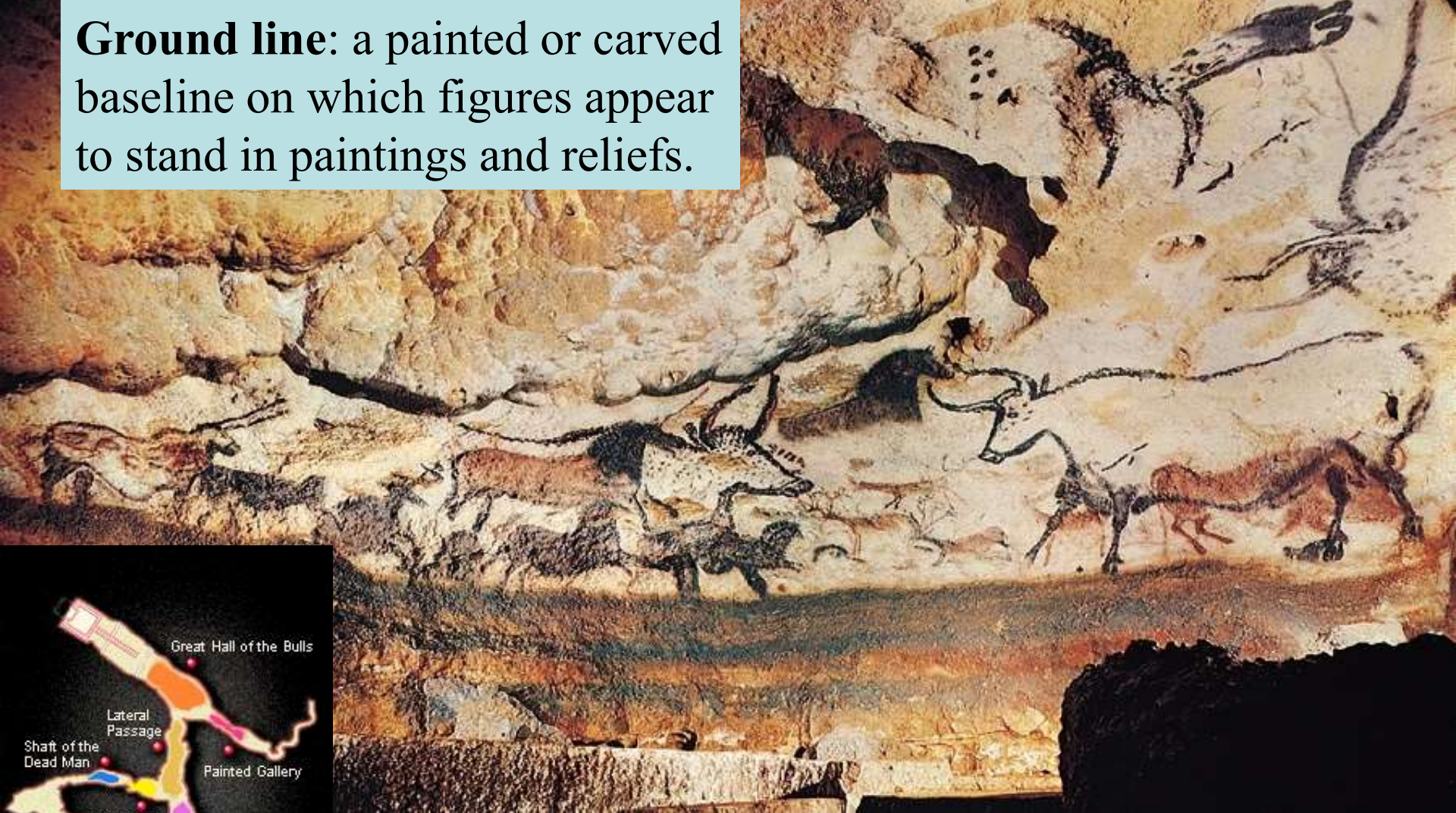
Signs. Lascaux. Dordogne, France
ca. 15,000–13,000 BCE



https://www.ted.com/talks/genevieve_von_petzinger_why_are_these_32_symbols_found_in_ancient_caves_all_over_europe?utm_campaign=tedsread--a&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

Paleoanthropologist and rock art researcher Genevieve von Petzinger has studied and codified 32 ancient markings in caves across Europe.

Ground line: a painted or carved baseline on which figures appear to stand in paintings and reliefs.



Hall of the Bulls, Lascaux, Dordogne, France
ca. 15,000–13,000 BCE. Largest bull approx. 11' 6" long

T. “Chinese horse.”

Lascaux. Dordogne France

15,000-10,000 BCE

(Magdalenian Culture)

B. Living Horse



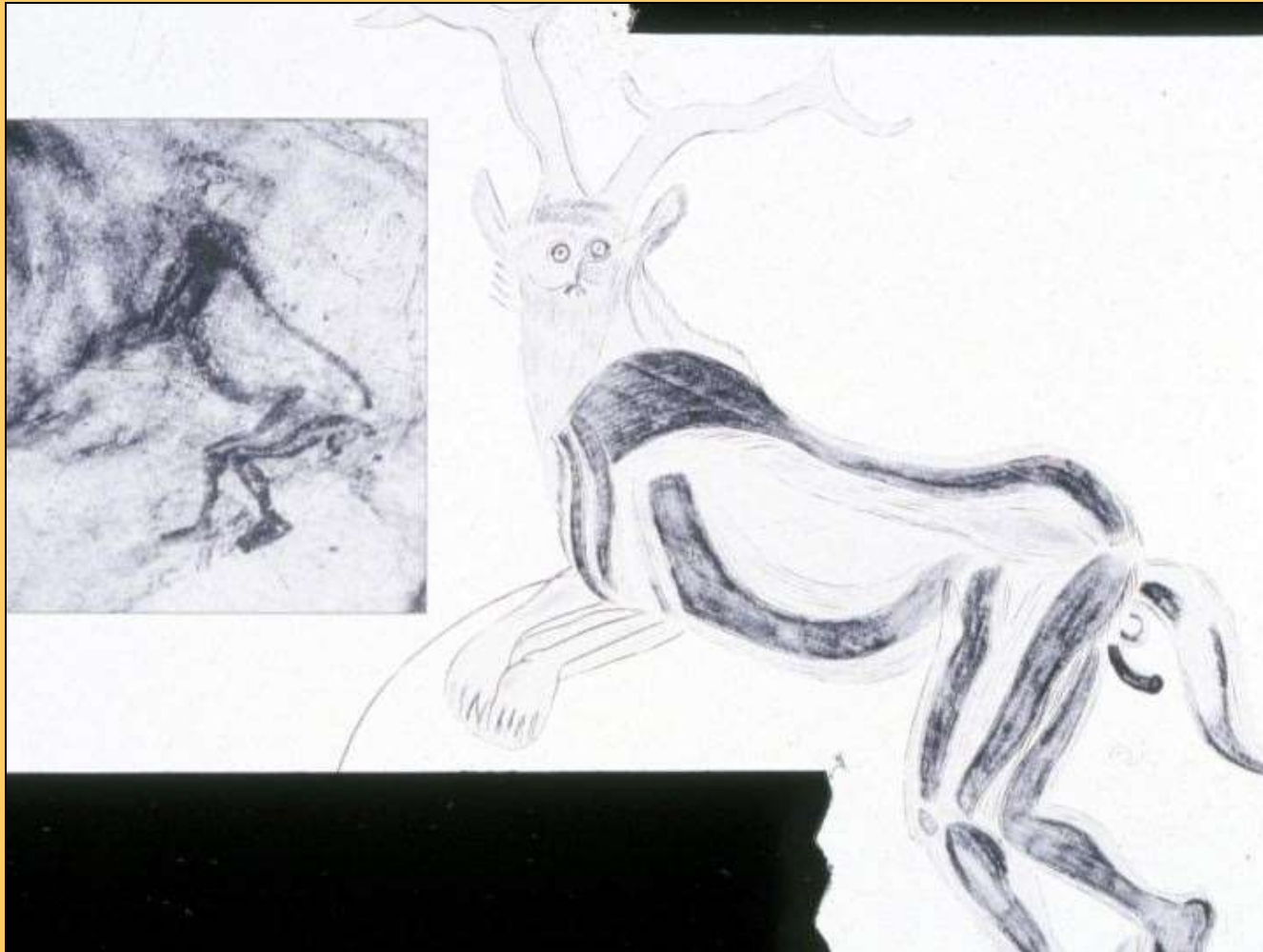


Shaman and Wounded Bison (?). Lascaux. Dordogne. France
15000-13000 BCE. Natural pigments on Limestone

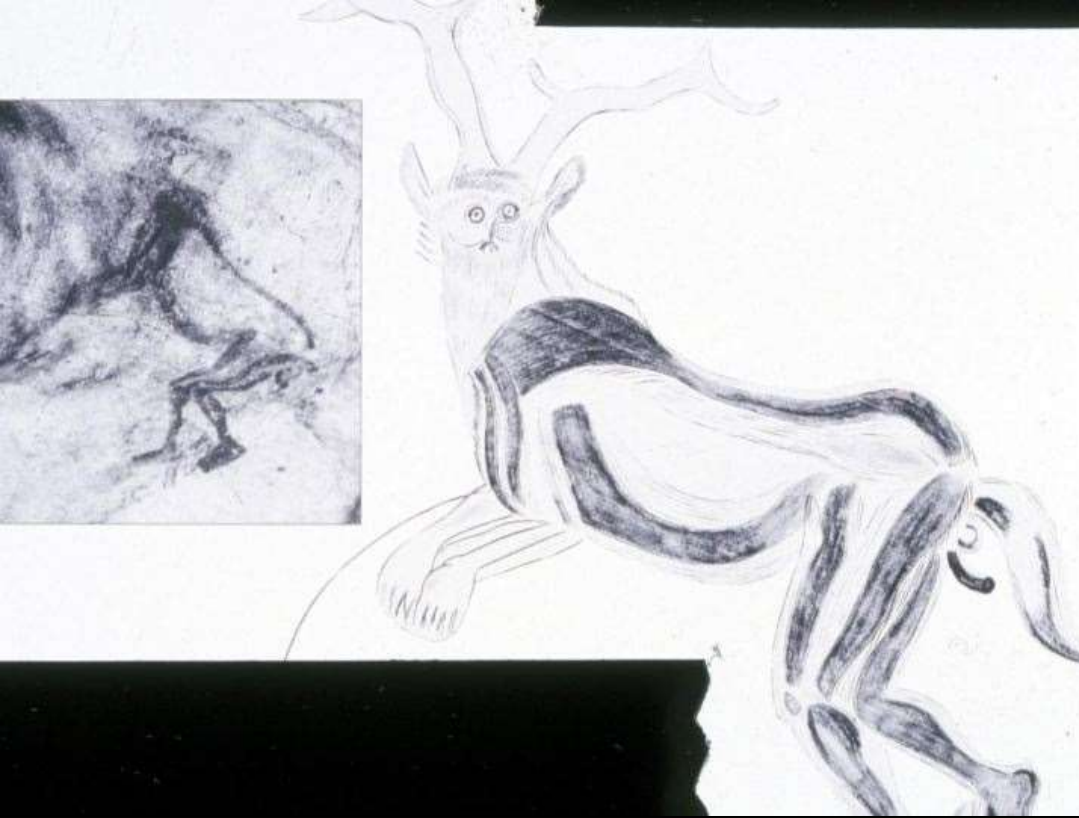


Shaman and Wounded Bison
Lascaux. Dordogne. France
15000-13000 BCE. Natural
pigments on Limestone





Masked Dancing Shaman. Dordogne. France. 15,000-10,000 BCE.



Masked Dancing Shaman. Dordogne.
France. 15,000-10,000 BCE.



Human with feline head, from
Hohlenstein-Stadel, Germany, ca.
30,000–28,000 BCE Mammoth ivory,
11 5/8” high.



L. Masked Dancing Shaman. Copy. Dordogne. France. 15,000-10,000 BCE

R. Mandan Bull Dance (O-kee-pa Ceremony) by George Catlin. 1832. Banks of Missouri River. USA

Paleolithic Bone Huts



Paleolithic Dwelling. Reconstruction. Mezhirich. Ukraine
18,000-17,000 BCE. Mammoth bones



“bone hut” sites made of Mammoth bones have been found in the Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine.



The last glacial period ended about 11,700 years ago



Woolly mammoths (along with other large mammals such as woolly rhinoceros, saber-toothed cats and cave lions), went extinct as warming weather reduced their food sources, and due to human activity.

Holocene Extinction (the Sixth Extinction)

The Holocene Epoch began 12,000 to 11,500 years ago at the close of the Paleolithic Ice Age and continues through today.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why do you think that images of men were less prevalent in Paleolithic art than those of animals and women?
- ❖ What purposes may Paleolithic cave paintings have served?
Why are they generally not found in the inhabited portions of the caves in which they're found?