Two Million Years of Art in Human Evolution

AH 224 Paleolithic Art, Spring 2012

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originsnet.org (pleistocenecoalition.com)
MYTHO-STRATIGRAPHY

- Mythic III
  - Eurasian
  - ‘shamanic’

- Mythic II
  - ‘Southern Route’

- Mythic I
  - ‘Khoisan’

Complex Idea Modeling

Conceptual Symbolic Modeling
## 4 Meme Model: 2MY Evolution of Art, Symbol & Myth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era and Techné</th>
<th>Four Meme Model (James Harrod)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oldowan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rudimentary Symbolic</strong> = 2.0-3.5 yrs // human = great ape cognition (A. Russon 2004) = <em>Australopithecus</em> (similar cognitive level by triangulation to common great ape ancestor) First ‘art object’: ‘animacy in stone’, ‘animated spirit that inhabits the body’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Era and Techné</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conceptual-Symbolic Modeling</strong> = <em>Homo habilis/eroffensis</em> (out-of-Africa) First Metaphor = ‘core-seed-sustenance-essence in interpersonal interaction’; ‘rhomboids of the mind’ First Ethos = carnivore axis First Joke: ‘hit the baboon head’ anvil (drill cupules)</td>
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<td><strong>Acheulian</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complex Idea Modeling</strong> = <em>Homo erectus/ergaster</em> (out-of-Africa) Biface pairing of complementary shapes (<em>contraria sunt complementa</em>, Niels Bohr; <em>coincidentia oppositorum</em>, C. G. Jung; ‘co-poiesis’, Bracha Ettinger) Sheath, the Womb Source of Animacy (Life-Giver) &amp; Vehicle, Cutting Spirit, Energy of Initiative (Death-Giver) colorants, marking traditions, mortuary practice, adornments, anthropomorphs &amp; zoomorphs</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Middle Paleolithic / Middle Stone Age** | **Mythic I &II** EMP = archaic *Homo sapiens* / MMP = *Homo sapiens sapiens* (out-of-Africa) Beings of the Dreaming, Creatrix of Life-Forms, stone arrangements, landscape art, image representation, mortuary practices with grave goods; geometric ‘signs’  
  I. ‘Gaia’ (M. Witzel) = Khoisan  
  II. ‘Gondwana’ (M. Witzel) = ‘Southern Route’ Africa to SE Asia & Australia |
  6 Worlds Shamanism; Soul Journey, Soul Retrieval; Mother-of-Animals, Master-of-Animals; Geometric Protolanguage, UP(E) array of 12 female and 12 male spiritual transformations (J. Harrod) |

Templeton (2010, 2002): genetics = 3 waves out-of-Africa – 1.9 Ma; 650 ka; 130 ka; 1 out-of-Asia (recent)
“Maybe someday we could set aside a cave just for art.”
Upper Paleolithic / Later Stone Age
Palaeoart
# 4th Meme of the Evolution of Art, Symbol & Myth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era and Techné</th>
<th>4th Meme: Mythic III = <em>Homo sapiens sapiens</em></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Paleolithic / Later Stone Age</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mythic III: ‘Laurasian’ (M. Witzel) = ‘Shamanic’ mythologies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUP ~60 to 150 ka</td>
<td>• 6 Worlds: Upper, Middle and Lower Worlds and central Axis Mundi (M. Eliade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUP ~40 to 20 ka</td>
<td>• Soul Journey and Soul Retrieval; psychopomp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUP ~25 to 10 ka</td>
<td>• Mother-of-Animals, Master-of-Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Upper Paleolithic (European), UP(E), subset of geometric signs used under application of combinatory matrix to generate array of 6 female and 6 male spiritual transformation processes, their respective symbolization and mythologies (Harrod 2004 a,b online OriginsNet.org; Harrod 1997; Harrod 1987 Valcamonica Symposium paper)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meme #4 Upper Paleolithic / LSA: Mythic III

Shamanic, ‘Laurasian’ (M. Witzel)

6-Worlds Shamanism (Soul Journey, Soul Retrieval), Mother-of-Animals, Master-of-Animals

Earth diver emergence; UP(E) arrays of female and male spiritual transformations
# European Upper Paleolithic Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>From (years ago)</th>
<th>To (years ago)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial UP (Bohunician and Bachokirian)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proto-Aurignacian</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl tephra/HE IV ~39-40 kya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurignacian</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravettian</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solutrean</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalenian</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Magdalenian</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Dryas 12.8-11.5 kya; impact ~12.9 kya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesolithic Age</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neolithic Age</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chalcolithic / Megalithic Age</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ice Age Europe

(Marshack A. The Roots of Civilization fig.)
EURASIAN—Initial UP
BOHUNICIAN and PROTO-AURIGNACIAN  ~50-35 kya

TYPICAL SYMBOLIC ART AND RITUAL TRANSFORMATION SITES

Macrolanguage Family: (U8-mtDNA?) Pre-Hattic & (U4’9-mtDNA?) Pre-Kartvelian?
Kostenki 14-IVb and Kostenki 17-III, Russia, Proto-Aurignacian ~42-40 cal kya
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Kostenki 14-IVb and Kostenki 17-III, Russia, Proto-Aurignacian ~42-40 cal kya
R: University of Colorado
Campanian Ignimbrite ~40 cal kya
Jöris O, Street M. 2008. At the end of the 14C time scale - the Middle to Upper Paleolithic record of western Eurasia.
EURASIAN—AURIGNACIAN ~40-28 kya

TYPICAL SYMBOLIC ART AND RITUAL TRANSFORMATION SITES

Macrolanguage Family: (U2-mtDNA) Pre-Dravidian?
Kostenki 14-IVb and Kostenki 17-III, Russia, Aurignacian ~30-40 cal kya
Aurignacian sites with art in the ‘Chauvet style’

Aurignacian ‘vulva-seed’ (‘uterus womb’, ‘teardrop’) signs
L: Castelmerle, Dordogne H: 97.4cm. R: A Abri Cellier; B Abri Blanchard; C La Portel; D Bédeilhac; E Arcy-sur-Cure; F Ussat; G Les Combarelles; H Pech Merle; I Altamira; J El Castillo; K La Mouthe; L: El Castillo; M Ussat; N Isturitz.
Drawings: Patricia Reis after A. Leroi-Gourhan
James Harrod, ‘teardrop’ shape, ‘source of all sorrow and joy of life’, compare converse gendered Egyptian Atum who emerges from primordial sea as a mound (benben) and from own seed makes air and moisture, Shu and Tefnut, and from own tears creates humanity.
Symbolic Animals of the Aurignacian ‘Mandala’
Possible Gender Coding L: Male, R: Female. Interpretation: James Harrod
‘Lion Bear Mammoth Rhino’ Aldène, Hérault, France, Aurignacian ~36-39 kya

Gravures de vulves de l'abri du Cellier à Tursac
Interpretation: ‘bison’ facing left, James Harrod
Abri Cellier, Dordogne, France, Aurignacian ~36-39 kya

Date, compare Higham et al (2011). Top L: wolf canine, 5.5cm; circumcision or rainurage for cord or thong, unusual, most such items were pierced; Peyrony 1946. Top Center: bone or ivory fragment, worked end, 5.1cm. Top Right: decorated avian bone 7.2cm. Bottom L: decorated bone, 16.2cm. Bottom Right: serrated rib bone, 3.9cm, knife?, common type, also at Abri Blanchard. Exhibition, Logan Museum, Beloit University

http://www.beloit.edu/logan_online/exhibitions/virtual_exhibitions/before_history/europe/abri_cellier.php
‘Vulva-seeds, Tri-line, ‘?Zoomorphs’. Abri Cellier, Dordogne, France, Aurignacian ~36-39 kya

Gravures de vulves de l’abri du Cellier à Tursac
Interpretation: ‘bison’ facing left, James Harrod

Photo: Don Hitchcock 2008 from Donsmaps.com
‘Vulva-seeds, Tri-line, ‘?Zoomorphs’. Abri Cellier, Dordogne, France, Aurignacian ~36-39 kya

Photo: Don Hitchcock 2008 from Donsmaps.com
Interpretation: ‘lion’, James Harrod
‘Vulva-seeds, Tri-line, ‘?Zoomorphs’. Abri Cellier, Dordogne, France, Aurignacian ~36-39 kya
Photo: Don Hitchcock 2008 from Donsmaps.com
Interpretation: ‘lion’, James Harrod
1: Block ‘vulva-seeds, cupule, ~7 incisions. 2: Small stone ‘?Rhino’.
Abri Cellier, Dordogne, France, Aurignacian ~36-39 kya
Peyrony (1946: Fig. 5) from Donsmaps.com
Interpretation: ‘rhino’ (and not’ male genital organ’, unless metaphor for both), James Harrod
1 and 2: Two blocks, each with engraved Ibex, and a third set of curved lines, maybe 3rd ibex.
Block #2: ‘horsehead’ and ‘vulva’ and incisions.
Abri Cellier, Dordogne, France, Aurignacian ~38 kya
Peyrony (1946: Fig. 4) from Donsmaps.com
Block #2: ‘horse’ and ‘vulva’ with dots/cupules. Abri Cellier, Dordogne, France, Aurignacian ~36-39 kya

Top: Peyrony (1946: Fig. 4) from Donsmaps.com
Bottom: Clayton Eshelman; claytoneshelman.com/matrix from Donsmaps
'Cupules, Zoomorph, Pubic Triangle', La Ferrassie, Aurignacian
‘Cupules, Zoomorph, Vulva-Seed-Triangle’, La Ferrassie, Aurignacian
Drawings: Emmanuel Anati
L: Flute replica, L’Abri Blanchard, Aurignacian ~35 ka
(White, Randall. *Dark Caves, Bright Visions* fig 136)

R: ‘Bullroarer’, La Roche a Lalinde (Dordogne), Magdalenian
Reindeer antler object covered with red ochre, linear/geometric engraving, often compared to ‘bullroarers’
(Musee des Antiquities Nationales (c) American Museum of Natural History)
Galgenberg, Krems-Rehberg/Stratzing, Austria
Galgenberg Site, Krems-Rehberg/Stratzing, Austria, Aurignacian ~30 kya

Excavation 1988. Image from Dons Maps. Source: www.stratzing.at/content/3/015
‘Trance’ Figurine, Galgenberg, Krems-Rehberg/Stratzing, Austria, Aurignacian ~30 kya
Interpretation: Felicitas Goodman: trance posture, energy connection axis earth to sky worlds, repair tear or unbalance in cosmos
Chauvet Cave, Ardéche Gorge, SE France
Ardèche Gorge, SE France
Photo: Tjarko Evenboer Google Earth, from donsmaps.com
Pont d'Arc, Ardèche Gorge, SE France

Wiki Commons from Donsmaps.com
Cliff Edge, Chauvet Cave, Ardèche Gorge, SE France

*National Geographic* (Aug 2001) from Donsmaps.com
Stalagmite Cascade ‘Mammoth’, Entrance and Brunel Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya

L: map Ill.57. Clottes J and (transl.) Bahn P. 2003. Chauvet Cave: The art of earliest times
Signs Panel L Wall (no. 35), Brunel Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya
L ‘Wall of Dominoes’ (no. 30), Brunel Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya
Feline black; red barbed sign, 6+2+5=13 Dots red; ‘bell’ recess; red lines, strokes, traces; ?headless ?cervid or Ibex

‘Alcove of the Yellow Horses’ (no. 31), Brunel Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya

L: Large Panel of Red Dots (female or adolescent palm).  R: 3 Yellow Horses, 6 Red Dots, Tri-Line, 5 vertical dots, ?arcs

‘Panel of the Dotted Animal’ (no. 32), Brunel Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya

‘Panel of the Dotted Animal’ (no. 32), Brunel Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya

?Bear head right profile, using natural fissure; indet. animal facing right (?mammoth, ?rhino or ?bison)

Photo from donsmaps after crytical.com
‘Recess of Bears’ (no. 33), Brunel Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya
Squeeze into Small Rotunda. L Wall: 3 Cave Bears. R Wall: 2 Ibex, using natural fissures and red ochre
R: Ill. 65 and 64. Clottes J and (transl.) Bahn P. 2003. Chauvet Cave: The art of earliest times
L Top and Bottom: Photo: Baffier D and Feruglio V. www.culture.gouv.fr
‘Panther Panel’ (no. 28), Red Panels Gallery, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya
3 Bears, 2 Felines, 2 Ibex at either end of panel, 3 indet.; base of wide deep hollow: 1 red dot
'Panel of Signs' (no. 27), Red Panels Gallery, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya
7 Double-Lobe Signs (some w/oblique dash; ?butterfly), 1 ‘Insect’ Sign rectangle w/6 curved lines; more dots, lines; ?bison/aurochs
C: III. 74. Clottes J and (transl.) Bahn P. 2003. *Chauvet Cave: The art of earliest times*
'Panel of Hand Prints' (no. 26), 12m, Red Panels Gallery, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya

Frieze of the 5 red rhinoceroses, ‘W’-sign
8 Felines, 1 Mammoth, 1 Horse, 1 Rhino, 5 hand prints 2 stencils; ~10 dots;
Circle w/semicircle top and bordered with 12 dots; vertical zigzag, ‘W’, rhino, hook-shaped line, dots;
C: Ill. 75. Clottes J and (transl.) Bahn P. 2003. Chauvet Cave: The art of earliest times
'Horse Sector', Gallery of the Crosshatching, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya

‘Horse Sector’, Gallery of the Crosshatching, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya
C: Ill. 102. Clottes J and (transl.) Bahn P. 2003. Chauvet Cave: The art of earliest times
‘Horse and 2 Mammoth’, engraved at back, Gallery of the Crosshatching, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya
'Mammoth', End Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya


Center: after image from Donsmaps.com
Bison-Man/Bison-Woman, pubic triangle, Chauvet, Aurignacian ~32.5-30 kya

Source: donsmaps.com, after Clottes J and (transl.) Bahn P. 2003. Chauvet Cave: The art of earliest times

Photo: Yanik Le Guillou
‘Woman/Bison/Lion’, Pendant, End Chamber, Chauvet, Aurignacian, ~32.5-30 kya


*Photo and schematic sketch: Yanik Le Guillou*
Höhlenstein-Stadel
Vogelherd
Geissenklösterle
Upper Danube, Swabian Jura, Germany
Site, Vogelherd, Germany, Aurignacian ~28-36 kya
5 mammoths, 3 felines, 4 ‘carnivores’, 1 bovid, 1 indet, 1 anthro = 15 figurines on mammoth ivory and bone

Photo: from Spiegel (online)
'Mammoth', Vogelherd, Germany, Aurignacian ~28-36 (30-32) kya in sediment, excavation 1931

Photo: Conard NJ; from Spiegel (online)
‘Mammoth’, Vogelherd, Germany, Aurignacian ~28-36 (30-32) kya
6 short incisions, crosshatch on feet, 3.7cm

Photo: Conard NJ; from Spiegel (online)
‘Mammoth’, Vogelherd, Germany, Aurignacian ~28-36 (30-32) kya
6 short incisions, crosshatch on feet, 3.7cm
Photo: Conard NJ; from Spiegel (online)
‘Mammoth’ (2), Vogelherd, Germany, Aurignacian ~28-36 (30-32) kya
~12 X-signs
Photo: Conard NJ; from *Spiegel* (online)
'Lion', Vogelherd, Germany, Aurignacian ~28-36 (30-32) kya
~30 X-signs, 5.6cm
Photo: Conard NJ; from Spiegel (online)
‘Lionhead’, X-signs, Vogelherd, Germany, Aurignacian ~28-36 (30-32) kya
~30 X-signs, 2.5cm
Guy E. 2012. Le style Chauvet: une beauté fatale? Fig. 3 (online) from no source
'Flute', Geissenklösterle Level II, Germany, Upper Aurignacian ~29-36 kya (scatter) (4 bone carvings: bear, mammoth, bovid, anthropomorph relief obverse dot marks; flute; oval antler pendant with stroke marks, ivory beads, 1 ivory pierced baton) Level III, ~29-40 kya (scatter), Perforated fox canines, ivory pendants, ivory beads (Hahn 1982; Conard 2003) Photo: Jensen H
‘Lion-Man’, Höhlenstein-Stadel, Germany, Aurignacian ~31-32 kya
Carving on tip of mammoth tusk ivory; 28cm
'Lion-Man', Höhlenstein-Stadel, Germany, Aurignacian ~31-32 kya
Carving on tip of mammoth tusk ivory; 28cm
‘Orion’ or anthropomorph, 5 or 6 stroke marks on arm; obverse ~87 dot marks’, relief 3.8cm
Geissenklösterle Level II, Germany
Upper Aurignacian ~29-36 kya

(Hahn 1982; Conard 2003) Photo: donsmaps.com (online) based on image from Landesmuseum Württemberg
Female Figurine, Hohle Fels, Germany
Photo: Conard NJ