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>'Rudimentary Symbolic' = 2.0-3.5 yrs // human = great ape cognition (A. Russon 2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EO ~2.6 to 2.0 Ma</strong></td>
<td><em>Australopithecus</em> (similar cognitive level by triangulation to common great ape ancestor)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>‘Classic’ ~2.0 to 1.4 Ma</em></td>
<td>First ‘art object’: ‘animacy in stone’, ‘animated spirit that inhabits the body’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developed ~1.7 to 1.2 Ma</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conceptual-Symbolic Modeling = Homo habilis/rudolfensis (out-of-Africa)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Metaphor = ‘core-seed-sustenance-essence in interpersonal interaction’; ‘rhomboids of the mind’</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Ethos = carnivore axis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Joke: ‘hit the baboon head’ anvil (drill cupules)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acheulian</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complex Idea Modeling = Homo erectus/ergaster (out-of-Africa)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(sensu lato)</em></td>
<td>Biface pairing of complementary shapes <em>(contraria sunt complementa</em>, Niels Bohr; <em>coincidentia oppositorum</em>, C. G. Jung: ‘co-poiesis’, Bracha Ettinger)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EA ~1.7 to 1.0 Ma</strong></td>
<td><em>Sheath, the Womb Source of Animacy (Life-Giver) &amp; Vehicle, Cutting Spirit</em>, Energy of Initiative (Death-Giver)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MA ~1.0 Ma to 500 ka</strong></td>
<td>colorants, marking traditions, mortuary practice, adornments, anthropomorphs &amp; zoomorphs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LA ~650 to 200 ka</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FA ~300 to 150 ka</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Paleolithic /</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mythic I &amp;II EMP =archaic Homo sapiens / MMP = Homo sapiens sapiens (out-of-Africa)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Stone Age</strong></td>
<td>Beings of the Dreaming, Creatrix of Life-Forms, stone arrangements, landscape art, image representation, mortuary practices with grave goods; geometric ‘signs’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMP ~300 to 40 ka</strong></td>
<td>I. ‘Gaia’ (M. Witzel) = Khoisan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MMP ~150 to 60(100) ka</strong></td>
<td>II. ‘Gondwana’ (M. Witzel) = ‘Southern Route’ Africa to SE Asia &amp; Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LMP ~60 to 30/35 ka</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Paleolithic /</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mythic III = Homo sapiens sapiens (out-of-SW-Central-Asia)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Later Stone Age</strong></td>
<td>‘Eurasian’ (Y. Berezkin) ‘Laurasian’ (M. Witzel) = Shamanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EUP ~150 to 60 ka</strong></td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MUP ~40 to 20 ka</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LUP ~25 to 10 ka</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Templeton (2010, 2002): genetics = 3 waves out-of-Africa – 1.9 Ma; 650 ka; 130 ka; 1 out-of-Asia (recent)
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 = Homo sapiens sapiens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
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<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>
## 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><strong>Initial UP</strong> <em>(Bohunician and Bachokirian)</em></td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proto-Aurignacian</strong></td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI tephra/HE IV ~39-40 kya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aurignacian</strong></td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gravettian</strong></td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solutrean</strong></td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magdalenian</strong></td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late Magdalenian</strong></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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mesolithic Age</strong></td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neolithic Age</strong></td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chalcolithic / Megalithic Age</strong></td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bronze Age</strong></td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ice Age Europe

(Marshack A. The Roots of Civilization fig.)
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
EURASIAN—SOLUTREAN ~22-16 kya

TYPICAL SYMBOLIC ART AND RITUAL TRANSFORMATION SITES

Macrolanguage Family: (J*-mtDNA) Pre-Semitic-Egyptian? & (H-mtDNA) Pre-Basque?
Leroi-Gourhan, Ideal Arrangement of a Paleolithic Sanctuary
Illustration: Paul Bahn, after Leroi-Gourhan; Bahn PG. 1997. Journey Through the Ice Age: fig 11.18; compare Leroi-Gourhan A. 1967, Treasures of Prehistoric Art: Chart XV
EURASIAN—MAGDALENIAN  ~18-11 kya

TYPICAL SYMBOLIC ART AND RITUAL TRANSFORMATION SITES

Macrolanguage Family: (U4-mtDNA?) Kartvelian? & (H-subclades) Basque?
Lascaux pigments

(Ruspoli M. 1986. The Cave of Lascaux: The Final Photographs, p.97)
Bison, Altamira, 14.8 kya
L: bison, Chauvet, 32 kya
R: two bison, Lascaux Nave, 17 kya
Bison, clay, Le Tuc d'Audobert
Horse, Le Portel, 12 kya
L: horse with ‘wound’ signs, Niaux, 13.8-12.9 kya
Stag, quadrangular sign, 13 dots, Lascaux, Axial Gallery, South wall. 17 kya
L: Stag, Chimeneas, 15.1-13.9 kya
R: 3 Doe, Covalanas
(print, Douglas Mazonowicz)
Facing Ibex with ‘quadrangular sign’, Lascaux Axial Gallery, Right Wall. 17 kya
R: bison (twisted profile), horse, ibex, stag (antler), ‘claviform’, dots. Le Portel, 12.2-11.6 kya
Lascaux, Axial Gallery, Right Wall  Right and Left Sides
Panel Composition of 4 Species: Horse, Aurochs, Ibex, Deer. Quaternion Symbolism.
(Photo: Leroi Gourhan, Treasures of Prehistoric Art, fig. 73)
Baton with horse, bison, deer and salmon in spawn, Gourdan, France
(Chollot-Varagnac M. 1980. Les Origines du Graphisme Symbolique 47.079)
Wolf, Font de Gaume
painting: Breuil
Lascaux Rotunda
(online)
Lascaux, Rotunda, ‘Unicorn’, 17 kya
(Gourhan L. Treasures of Preshitoric Art fig 72.)
‘Underwater Panther’, Anishinabe, Agawa Site, NE Lake Superior
(photo: unknown)
Community (Public) Religious Ritual Depictions
‘Stroke’ or ‘Y’-sign + possibly ‘Branch’-signs’

‘4 trees and 9 humanoid figures with spears or sticks over shoulder (or struck through) in procession toward oversize bison; 4 sets made with 4 different points as though at four different times’

Engraved bone. Les Eyzies, Dordogne, France, Upper Magdalenian

(Microscopic analysis and line rendition by Marshack. Marshack A. 1991. The Roots of Civilization: fig 94b)
‘Stroke’ or ‘Y’-sign + possibly ‘Branch’-signs

‘Bison head and spine, 2 detached front legs, 7 humanoid figures, fork and branch signs, blade-like shapes and 2 sets of enclosed notches’

Engraved bone. Raymonden, Dordogne, France, Upper Magdalenian

(Microscopic analysis and line rendition by Marshack. Marshack A. 1991. The Roots of Civilization: fig 96b)
X-sign + implicit ‘tri-line’, undulating ‘flow’ lines

‘1 stallion and 1 small horse (colt?), 1 doe deer, 3 serpentine shapes, 3 swans,
3 shamanistic chamois-men, wearing chamois robe and mask, 1 for each set of images, each successively more schematized
probably indicating sequence of making’

Engraved baton (unrolled). Abri Mège, Dordogne, France, Magdalenian

Trance Process Depictions
‘Insect’ Geometric, Red Panels Gallery, Chauvet, France, Aurignacian ~32.5-30 kya (& 27-26 kya)
L: ‘Lightning Man’, Cro-Magnon
R: ‘Man with Buttons’, Bruniquel
‘Geometric Signs’, El Castillo, Spain. Middle Magdalenian II-IV (13,500-14,000 BP)

Anthropomorphic Figure Progressively Geometrized = ‘Shamanic Trance’

Interpretation: James Harrod; after Leroi-Gourhan. 1967. Treasures of Prehistoric Art fig 61
Ritual Spaces
Font de Gaume (Dordogne). Paired tectiforms.
Leroi-Gourhan A. 1967. *Treasures of Prehistoric Art: Examples of Paired Signs* chart XXXIVc1
Upper Paleolithic (Europe): Ritual Art Space
Female Spiritual Transformation #1: ‘Profile Type’
Gönnersdorf, Germany, Magdalenian, 14 to 18 kya cal. (Stevens 2009)

Hut #1
(diam. 2.5m)

Paved Pathway

Hut #2
(diam. 5.4x6.0m)

500 engraved slate plaquettes scattered along walkway and also around and inside the larger hut, often face down, appear intentionally broken. Many are engraved several times, some re-engraved after being broken. 200 human figures, almost all stylized females; zoomorphs – mammoth, horse, and rare rhino, bovid, reindeer(?), fox, fish, seals.

Hut #1: amorphous bowl shaped conglomerate rock with colored pebbles. Hut #2: floor covered with pulverized hematite and covered with small stone slabs. H = 2 hearths. 3 pits lined with fox skins with jaw and foot bones. (3) = pit with three female statuettes carved, one each, ivory, bone and antler. (0) = necklace of ~40 wooden pearls + teeth of fox and deer. (1) = 1 female statuette (Bosinski 1970)
El Juyo, Santander, Spain
Upper Paleolithic (Europe): Ritual Art Space – Creation of the Deer
El Juyo, Santander, Spain, Magdalenian, 14 kya

El Juyo Level 4 Floor Plan. St 1 = Structure 1; St 2 = Structure 2; St 3 = Structure 3;
P = pit; M = stone sculpture head (lion/leopard + bearded man)
(Freeman LG, Echegaray JG. 1981. El Juyo: A 14,000-Year-Old: Sanctuary from Northern Spain. History of Religions 21,1:1-16: fig. 1)
Upper Paleolithic (Europe): Ritual Art Space – Creation of the Deer
El Juyo, Santander, Spain, Magdalenian, 14 kya

El Juyo Level 4: L: doe head, engraved bone; C: stone sculpture head (lion/leopard + bearded man); R: artist rendition

(Freeman LG, Echegaray JG. 1981. El Juyo: A 14,000-Year-Old: Sanctuary from Northern Spain. History of Religions 21,1:1-16: fig. 1)
Upper Paleolithic (Europe): Ritual Art Space – Creation of the Deer
El Juyo, Santander, Spain, Magdalenian, 14 kya

El Juyo Level 4 Structure 1 and Structure 2 Schematic (top view)

Upper Paleolithic (Europe): Ritual Art Space – Creation of the Deer
El Juyo, Santander, Spain, Magdalenian, 14 kya

El Juyo Level 4 Structure 1 and Structure 2 Schematic (side view)
El Juyo, Santander, Spain, Magdalenian, 14 kya

Finnish Drum: World with Three Layers

‘every Finnish drum represents three layers; reddish color is from alder tree’

Shaman’s drum symbols in Scandinavia. ww.thulela.com/shamandrum.html (accessed March 2010)
Finnish Segment Drum with World in Three Layers
Bedford Barrens and Kejimkujik Petroglyphs, Mi’kmaq, pre-1500 AD

Left: ‘eight-pointed star, icon for sun; knobbled crosses elsewhere iconic for star’ cut with stone tools; probably pre-Contact.

Right: By Maqtewékpaqtism, proposed Mi’kmaq national flag drawn from Kejimkujik petroglyph at nation-forming (2001) but:) [and 7 stars = Pleiades; 3 concentric circles = 3 levels]