

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

001 Apollo 11 Cave Stones, Namibia, quartzite, c. 25,500–25,300 B.C.E.

Image courtesy of State Museum of Namibia.

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Small image of an animal drawn in profile using charcoal on a hand size slab fairly symmetrical and balanced.

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Charcoal drawn on stone slab

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Image resembles a cat in appearance but has human like legs that were probably added later, on the head are two slightly-curved horns likely belonging to an Oryx (grazing antelope), on the animal's underbelly, possibly sexual organ of a bovid.

Maybe some kind of supernatural creature (a therianthrope; part man, part animal)?



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Original site unknown, where it was discovered was not its place of origin.

Mesolithic period in this area, people of Prehistoric Africa were hunter-gatherers. This art shows early Homo Sapiens were capable of modern symbolic thought (long before that was previously understood prior to this discovery)

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Likely transportable artwork to move from location to location, following hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

Audience was likely whoever was using the cave as a residence. May have had religious importance as well but that is only speculation since information can't be verified.

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Drawing from observation and imagination. Making artwork transportable, likely to fit with their lifestyle.

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Not sure, no written record to confirm or validate theories. Even the Radiocarbon dating is less accurate than usual because samples were contaminated before proper analysis could be completed.

8. THEME(S):

human & animal, supernatural, anthropomorphic
COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like the Hall of Bulls in the Lascaux Caves, the Apollo 11 Stones also show early signs of twisted perspective and using charcoal to create animal like symbols. The Apollo stones show a higher level of imagination because of how it blends different animal features with human ones as well.