

Global Prehistory

- Paleolithic Art 30,000 BCE – 8,000 BCE
(Old Stone Age)
- **Need to know: 25,000 BCE**
- Neolithic Art 8,000 BCE -- 3,000 BCE
(New Stone Age)
- **Need to know: 5,000 BCE**



Terms to know

Historical Context Vocabulary

- BCE: Before Common Era
- CE: Common Era
- Context Matters

CONTEXT can very much determine the function. What is the intended purpose? Artworks can usually fall under one or more of the following categories.

UTILITARIAN	functional or useful items (i.e. containers, furniture, jewelry, etc.)
RELIIGOUS	items made for worship, veneration, ceremonies, rituals, festivals, procession, or burial rites.
POLITICAL	items meant to comment on social or political issues; wars, social injustice, propandizing leaders or to change public opinion.
HISTORICAL	records historical events
ECONOMIC	art made for financial gain or as a result of a wealthy patron.
INFORMATIONAL	to teach or inform; carry on a cultural tradition or moral to future generations.
AESTHETICS	for the joy or search for beauty, art for arts sake.

Visual Arts Vocab

- Elements of Art
- Principles of Design
- Awareness of Creative Process
- Identifying Media and application tools
- **CONTENT**- What can you see? What is the subject matter?
- **FORM**- Finer details. The Elements of Art and Principles of Design, don't just write, "statue" because that's not helpful at all.
- **CONTEXT**- WHY? What was happening during this time that caused this piece to be created? **P**olitical, **E**conomic, **R**eligious, **S**ocial, **I**ntellectual, **A**rt
- **FUNCTION**- What is its purpose? What was it made to be used for, or do? >>>
U.R.P.H.E.I.A.
- **STYLE**- How are you able to tell the artwork can be classified by a particular artist, culture, period, art movement, etc...? Why or how is this work important to the time and culture. What makes this fit into history?
- **MEANING**- What led up to the creation of this piece? How did this work reflect the ideas during this time in history, and allow it to be a product of its time? What is the meaning of the artwork?

(We'll be reviewing most of this stuff as we go through the Required Works for each Unit)

Sources and Understanding Bios

[Abby Cox and her Research Tidbits](#)

Understand the difference between

- Primary Sources
- Secondary Sources
- Tertiary Sources

Be aware of the *bois* information can contain. Just because it's old doesn't mean it's accurate or a full perspective of events.

Required Artwork Cards

1- Image Card

- Image Card
- Image of Artwork (print or drawing of the artwork)
- On back of image have identification info:
 1. **Title of the artwork**- sculpture and any 2D works are ALWAYS underlined if handwritten. Architecture is NOT underlined.
 2. **Artists** (if listed)
 3. **Date**- When was it created?
 4. **Period/Movement**- When? Cultural and time reference
 5. **Original Location**- Where is the original setting? Temple, church, domestic space, hospital, palace...
 6. **Location**- Where is it now?
 7. **Patron**- Did someone pay for this to be created?
 8. **Material/Media/Medium**- The material is WHAT it's made of.
 9. **Technique**- The technique is HOW it's made.

2- Info Card

- Title of Work
- Artists
- What makes this piece noteworthy (all the notes we go over about the required works?)

Historical Period Card(s)/Notes

- Recommend just taking notes during class
- Then Figure out your own way of grouping and condensing the information to as few cards as possible
hint: this is how you study!
- If you would more help with condensing materials maybe, consider setting up a study group and collaborate on it.
- It's ok to share the work BUT you are expected to do your own and are responsible for knowing all of it!

HISTORICAL PERIOD INFORMATION

Anything with a “#”
Next to it is a Required
Work to Know...



Stone Ages

- *Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic*
- Creation of *pigments*
- Insight into rituals and connections to naturalism and abstraction
- Africa and Asia influences other areas
- **How do we know?**
- -Archeology, anthropology, art historians



Paleolithic Africa

- First art is in the form of rock paintings and carved (incised) natural materials
- Affected by climate change
- 2 dimensional
- Usually associated with food, settlements, status, or burial (practicality)
- Original location is extremely important
- Thought that humanity began in Africa and radiated out

Ideas that changed art...

Cave and Rock Art

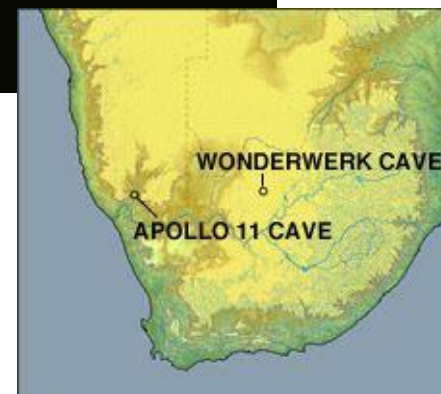
The oldest surviving paintings occur in **caves in Europe**. Produced across a timespan of more than **30 millennia**, and including examples in Africa, Australia, and the Americas, cave and rock art is by far the **longest-lived** form of artistic expression.



Oldest hand stencil in the world found in Indonesia, **39,000 years old!** (according the Maine Aubert of Griffith University, Australia)



#1 Apollo 11 Stones
from Namibia (S. Africa)
25,500-25,300 BCE
Charcoal on stone



Kaolinite

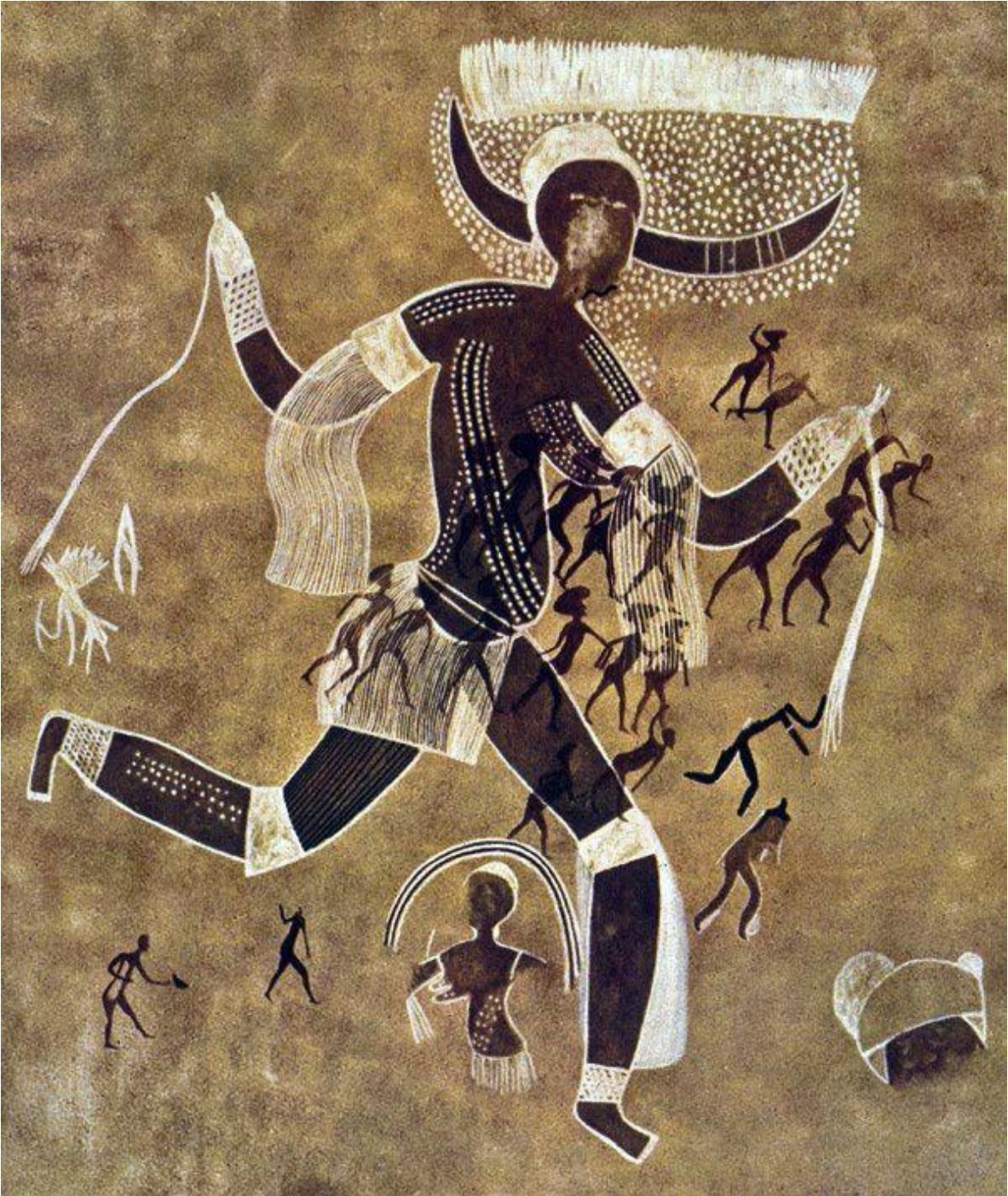


Charcoal



Ochre pigments





#4 Running horned woman

From Tassili n' Ajjer, Algeria
(N. Africa)
6,000-4,000 BCE
Pigment on rock

Discovered 1933

Paleolithic and Neolithic Europe



Caves at Altamira, Spain

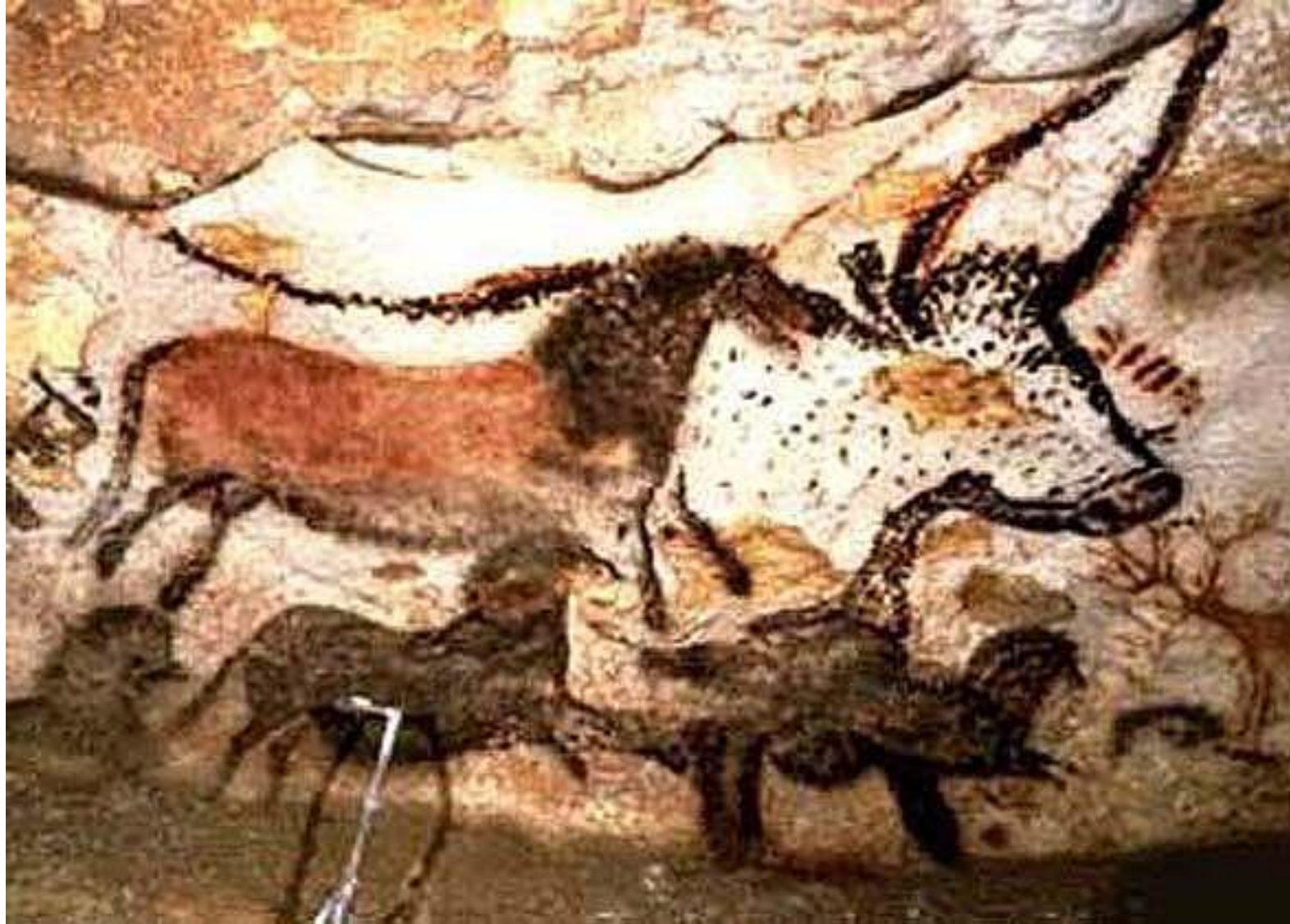
- Small human sculptures, cave paintings, stone assemblages
- Ritualistic life, possibly connected to the cosmos and natural cycles



Woman of Willendorf

From Willendorf, Austria
28,000-25,000 BCE
limestone

Discovered 1908



#2 Great Hall of the Bulls

at Lascaux, France

15,000-13,000BCE

Rock painting

Marcel Ravidat and Jacques Marsal (center) with their teacher, Léon Laval (far left), and Henri Breuil (far right), a famous prehistorian. After the war, Marsal devoted the rest of his life as chief guide at the cave until his death in 1989.

Lascaux,fieldmuseum.com





Photograph by Sisse Brimberg

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#8 Stonehenge
Wiltshire, UK
2500-1600 BCE
Sandstone

3 stages:

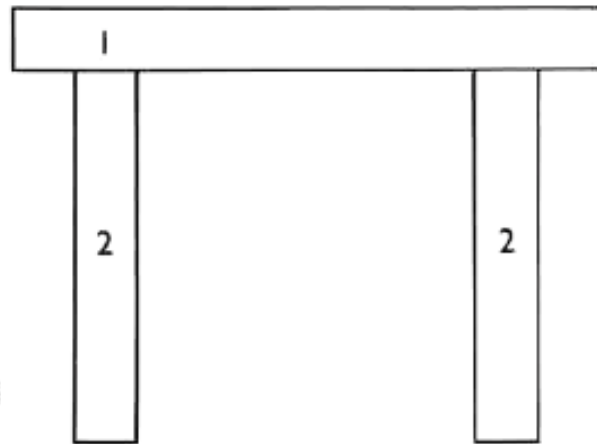
1. Outer ditch dug- 6' deep, 56 holes were filled with bluestones or beams
2. (100-200 years later) roof built?
3. (400-600 years later) Some of the holes were filled with cremations and upright stones capped with a lintel



Post and Lintel Construction

Post and lintel construction is a system in which vertical uprights (posts) support a horizontal (the lintel). The most basic, single post and lintel form is the **trilithon** (fig. 3.11).

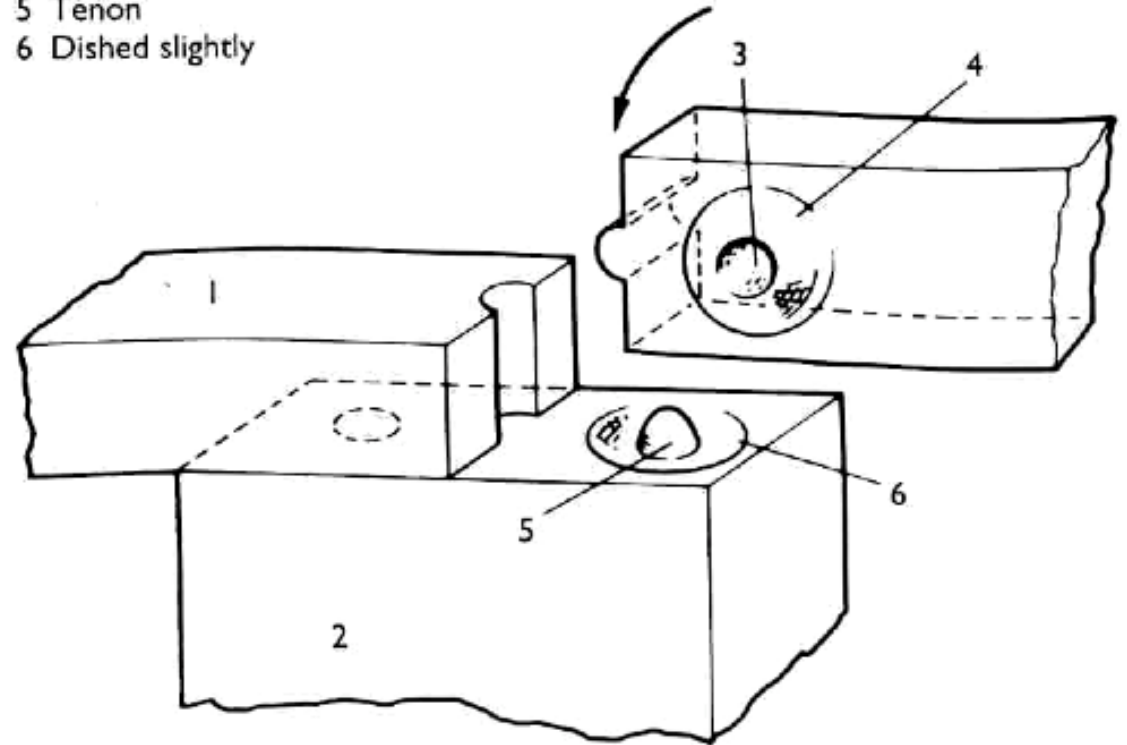
In later eras, this simple post and lintel system was elaborated into highly complex structures (see p.114).



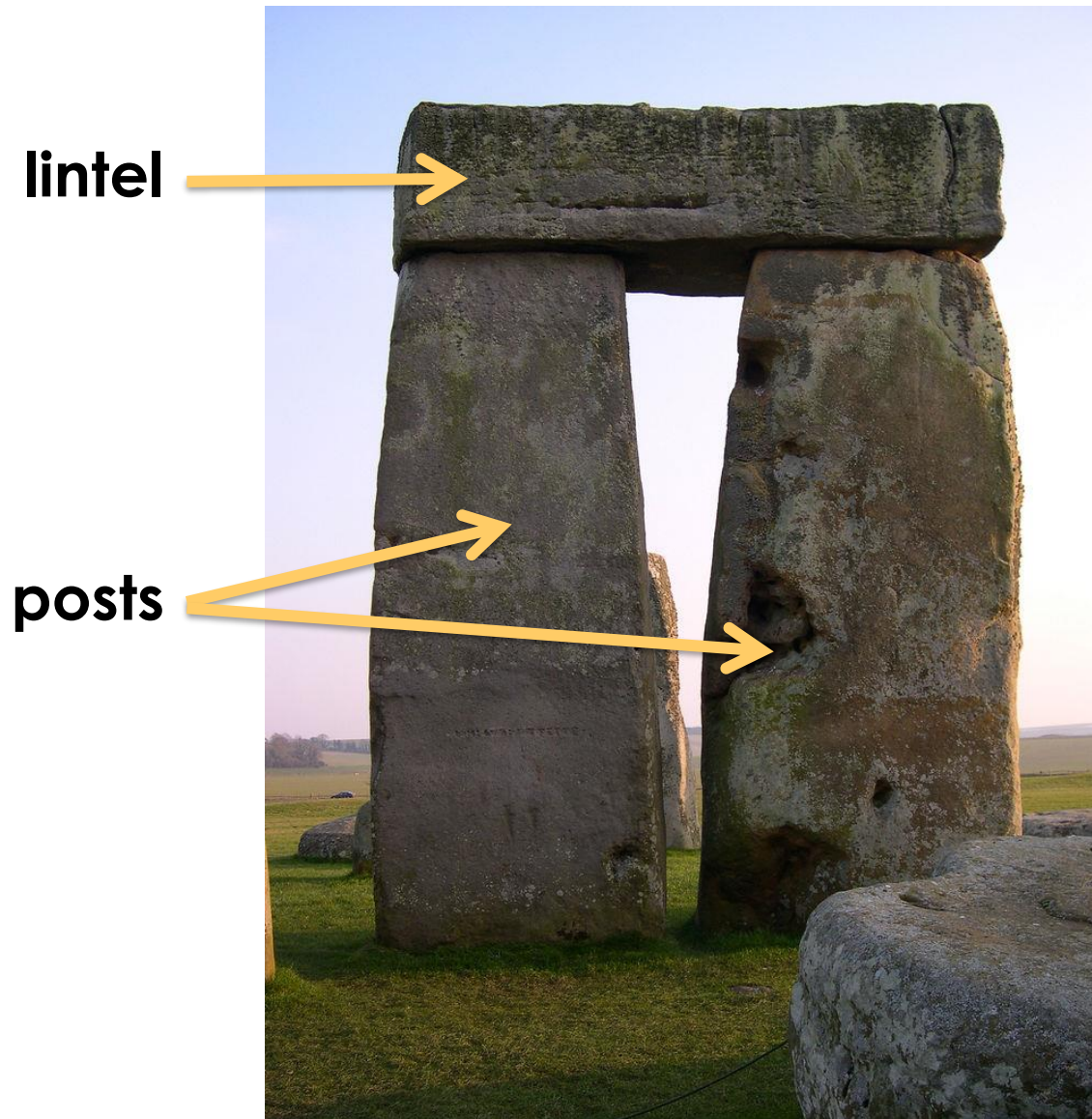
1 Lintel
2 Post

Post and lintel

- 1 Lintel
- 2 Upright
- 3 Mortice
- 4 Raised to fit hollow in top of upright
- 5 Tenon
- 6 Dished slightly



Lintel and tenon or mortise and tenon



lintel

posts

= trilithon

Each individual stone is called a **megalith**

Neolithic Asia and Middle East

- Cave paintings have been found in Asia including Iran and rock shelters in India
- Includes funerary steles (stela/upright stone slab)
- Asia excelled in ceramic technology
 - Pottery wheels used around 4000 BCE



#6 Anthropomorphic: having human characteristics

Anthropomorphic stele

From the Arabian Peninsula

4,000 BCE

Sandstone



#7 Jade cong

From Liangzhu, China

3300-2200 BCE

Carved jade



jadeite and nephrite





#5 Bushel with Ibex motif

From Susa, Iran

4,200-3,500 BCE

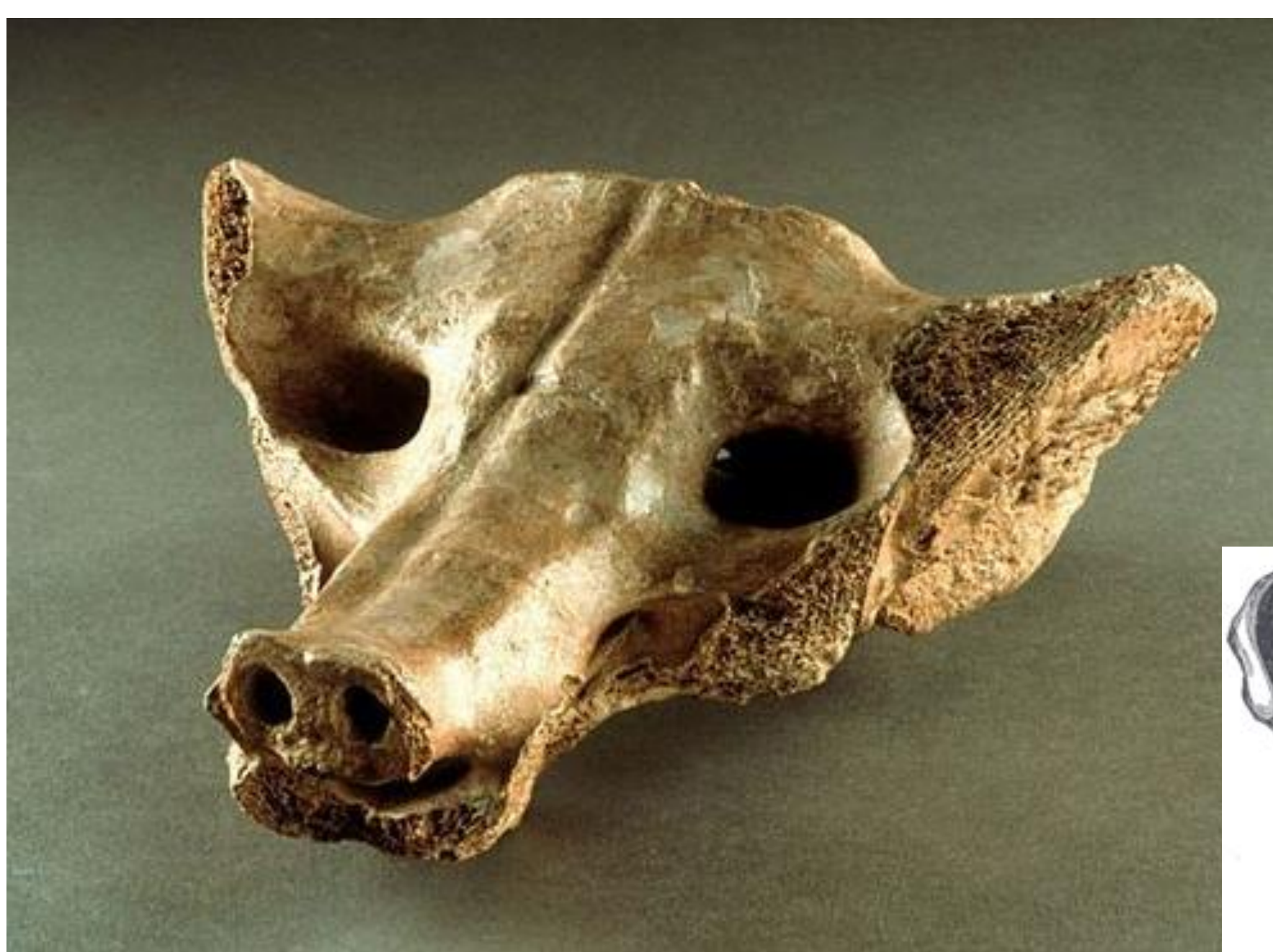
Painting terra cotta



Susa Acropolis

North and South Americas

- People migrated from Asia before 10,000 BCE
- Sculptures made from bone and later clay
- Features various types of animals and sacred humans



#3 Camelid sacrum in the shape of a canine

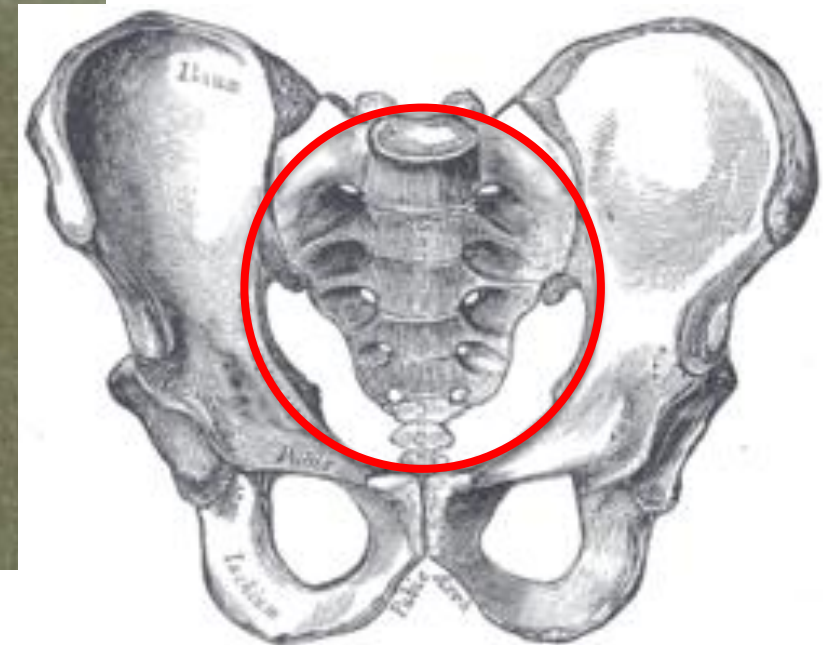
From Tequixquiac, central Mexico

14,000-7000 BCE

Bone

National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico

Human male sacrum





#10 Tlatilco female figurine

From Central Mexico, site of Tlatilco
1200-900 BCE

Ceramic

Princeton University of Art Museum, NJ

Pacific Regions

- Migrations from Asia 45,000 years ago
 - (land bridges and lowered sea levels)
- Created pottery with incised geometric patterns

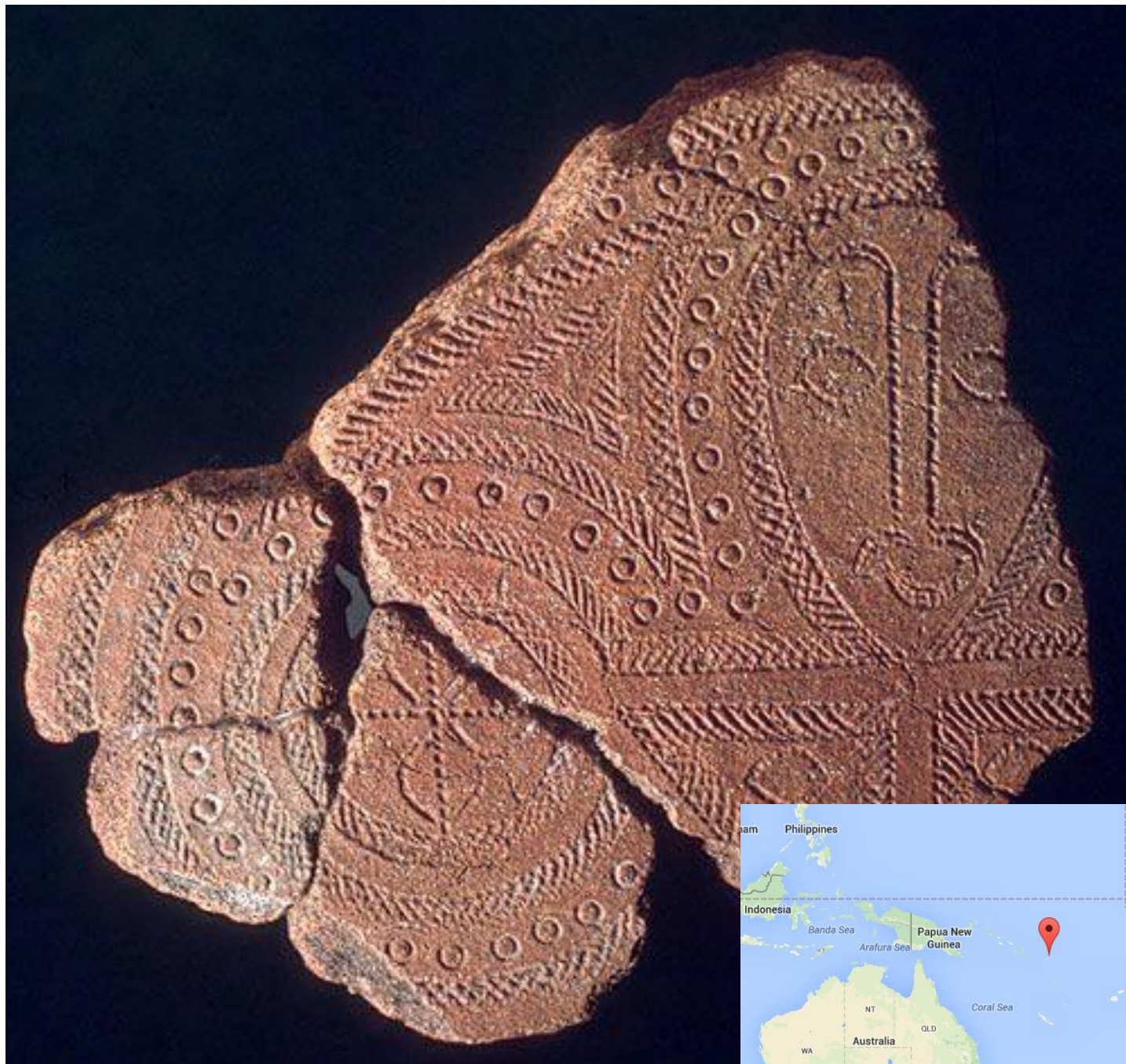


#9 The Ambum Stone

From Ambum Valley,
Papua New Guinea
1500 BCE

Greywacke

National Gallery of Austria



*One of the oldest human Faces In Oceanic art!

#11 Terra cotta fragment

From Lapita, Solomon Islands, Reef Islands
1000 BCE

University of Auckland, New Zealand

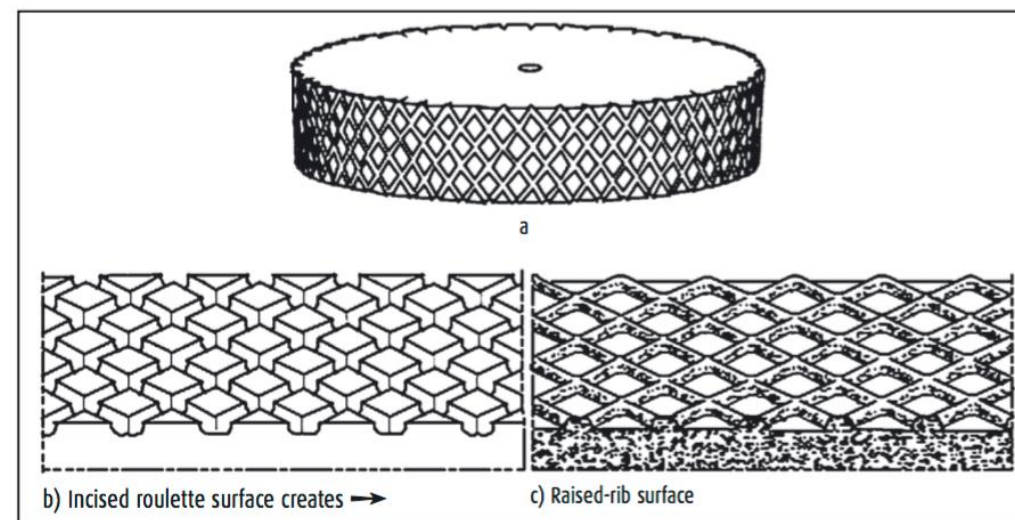


Figure 1. Hypothetical diagonally hatched incised roulette surface (a), and the implied grid form of ridges produced when applied to soft clay (b). None of the inspected sherds in the Malekolan collection has evidence of the raised ribs shown in (c) that a roulette would produce.