

Victoria Borges
Art History Assignment Cycle 1 – Intro to Prehistoric Art
Ms. Dahlberg

Prehistoric art is the type that is most interesting because it tells what we don't know about our ancestors, their legends, life and culture. It also teaches us the way they survived, and what kind of people they were. One of the prehistoric arts I find the most fascinating is the Cerro Sechin stone sculptures, which is on type of mural art. It was found in Peru and created at 2,000 B.C. The famous stone sculptures display about how they did their sacrificed daily which was also a part of their culture and religion. Another work of art that was similar to this one was the Chauvet Cave. How it was similar was that it was also a mural like illustrative works. The paintings were made during 30,000 located in France in Ardèche.

One type of prehistoric art would be The Chauvet Cave. It's located in the southern part of France in Ardèche valley which is located in the continent we know today as Europe. This ancient work of art was discovered in 1937. This cave consists of several drawings on the walls, and skulls and marks left on the floor from animals long ago that were hunted by the people who lived there. These drawing were made between 30,000 and 32,000 B.C using their own palms and red hand stencils to make these creations. One of the cave paintings are of four horses that are outlined gently. On top of those several horses there is one red soft outline of a shape of an oval. Ironically these drawing are not there to tell about their daily life, like people normally think they would represent. The animals displayed on the cave walls were not hunted much during the prehistoric time. I personally think they were there to tell legends or stories to one

another and it was to be passed down to one generation and to the next.



Another famous work of prehistoric art would be Mal'ta located in North Central



Asia.
area

The earliest human beings to live in this

began around 40,000 years ago. Later on, in 20,000 B.C, two other civilizations had formed and one of them was the Mal'ta. This area is filled with all sorts of work of art such as carved bone, ivory, antler objects, and miniature sculptures or figurines of birds and human females. These figurines were usually carved out of wood and look brown. The one that was most commonly made and found was the Venus figurines. One Venus figurine was made in 21,000 B.C carved from the ivory of a Mammoth and like the rest

this one also is brown. It is easy to hold since the bottom of the figure gets more and



more narrow.

You can still find these figurines in North Central Asia

today. Figurines are also considered to be portable art. Portable Art is a work of art that you can carry around from place to place. This is also an example of an artifact, in artifacts the skills of craftsmanship are used, and the Mal'ta figurines all require that same skill. Unlike the figurines of Mal'ta the Chauvet Cave would be an example of mural art. It involves the skills of painting, and expressing ones views, and emotions.

Cerro Sechin, a location that is constantly visited in Peru is another location with prehistoric art. It is constantly visited, and is famous mainly because of its engraved stone slabs. These stone slabs were discovered in 1937, but was made in during 2,000 B.C. The stone slabs display scene of human sacrifice and death. One stone sculpture is engraved with mutilated human heads next to one another and also one top of each other. Each face has a facial expression of closed eyes and twisted smiles from pain, while blood falls



down from their head wounds.

These stone sculptures represent their culture by how their religion was practiced day by day.

The Indian knoll is located in America in the Green and Ohio rivers in the state of what we know today as Kentucky. The land consists of items from 3000 B.C from the ancient civilizations. It was a time period that these people had an introduction of new items coming into use, so the site consists of objects such as rattles, flutes, smoking pipes, and bannerstones. Bannerstones is actually one of the most beautiful and commonly found artifacts found on this strip of land. These artifacts were used for spear throwers and come in several colors. One example of a banner stone is the like the one in the following picture. They were constructed from specially chosen stones and sometimes molded off clay, and depending on the stone chosen the color of the Bannerstone would change. Bannerstones show the texture from the mineral used. To see these banner stones today most visit the same place they were found which was in Kentucky itself.

