

Two Million Years of Art in Human Evolution

AH 224 Paleolithic Art, Spring 2012

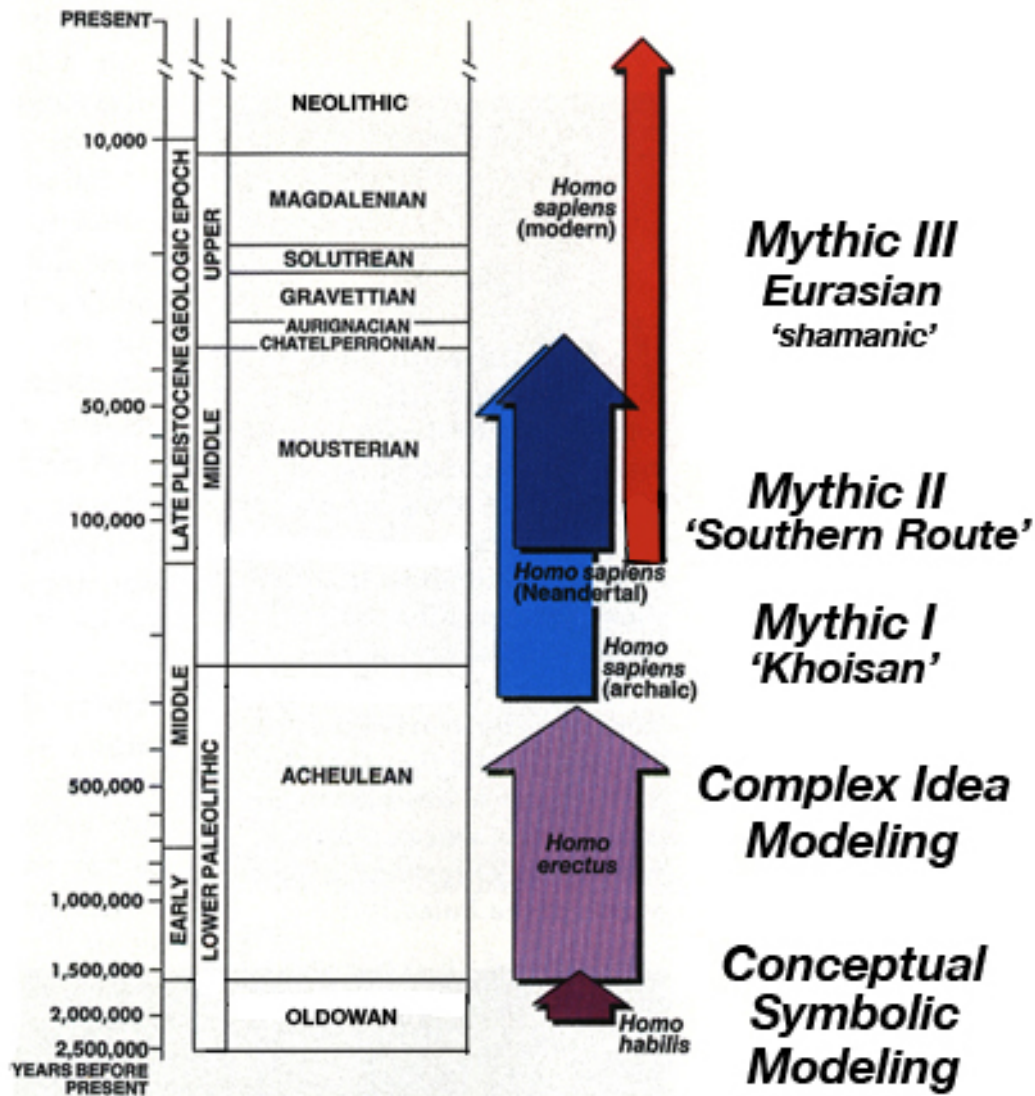
James Harrod, Ph.D.

Adjunct Instructor in Art History, Maine College of Art, Portland, Maine

Director, Center for Research on the Origins of Art and Religion

originsnet.org (pleistocenecoalition.com)

MYTHO-STRATIGRAPHY



4 Meme Model: 2MY Evolution of Art, Symbol & Myth

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

Templeton (2010, 2002): genetics = 3 waves out-of-Africa – 1.9 Ma; 650 ka; 130 ka; 1 out-of-Asia (recent)

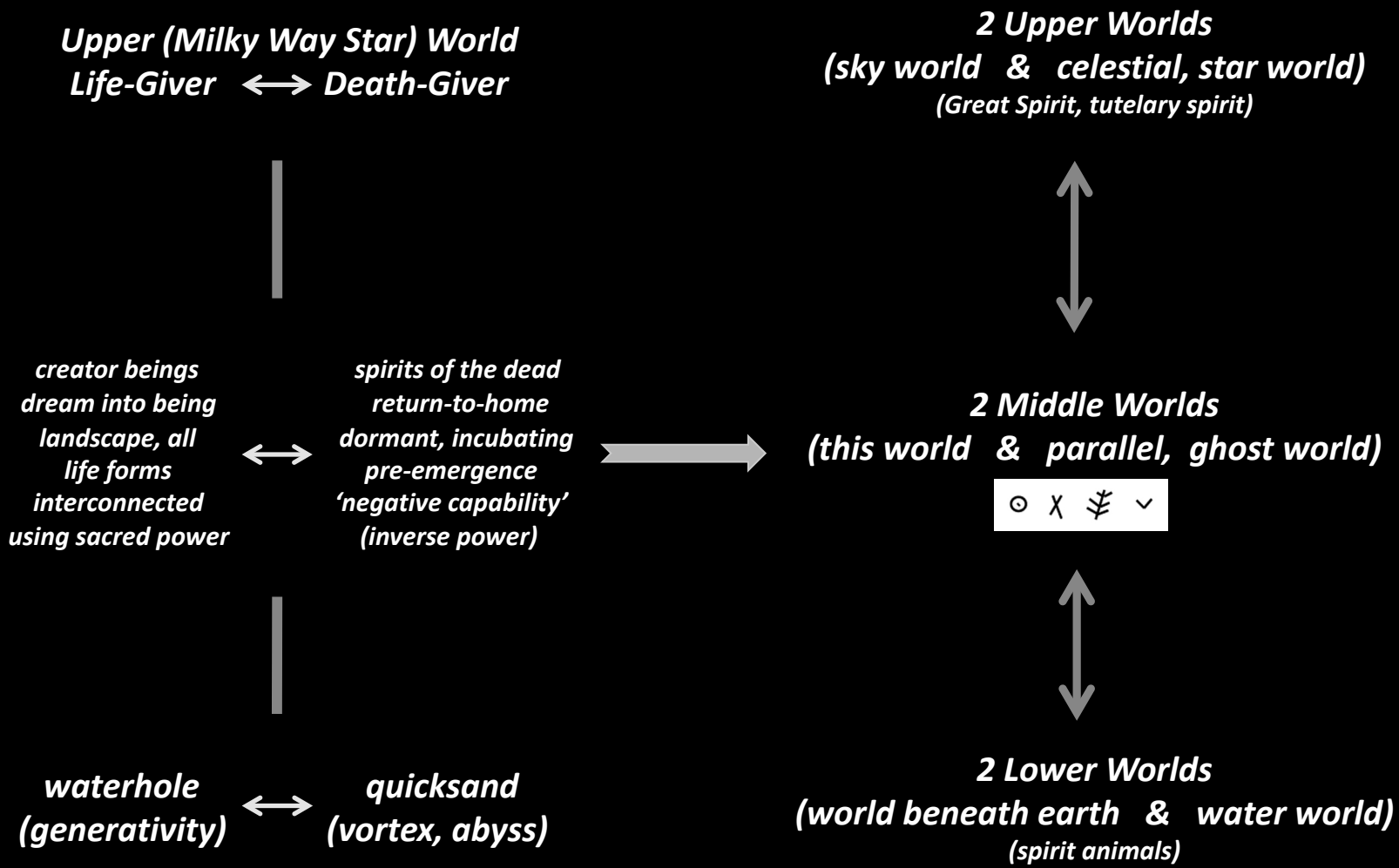


"Maybe someday we could set aside a cave just for art."

**Upper Paleolithic / Later Stone Age
Palaeoart**

4th Meme of the Evolution of Art, Symbol & Myth

<i>Era and Techné</i>	<i>4th Meme: Mythic III = Homo sapiens sapiens</i>
<p>Upper Paleolithic / Later Stone Age EUP ~60 to 150 ka MUP ~40 to 20 ka LUP ~25 to 10 ka</p>	<p>Mythic III: 'Laurasian' (M. Witzel) = 'Shamanic' mythologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 Worlds: Upper, Middle and Lower Worlds and central Axis Mundi (M. Eliade)• Soul Journey and Soul Retrieval; psychopomp• Mother-of-Animals, Master-of-Animals• 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)



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

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



Ice Age Europe

(Marshack A. *The Roots of Civilization* fig.)

EURASIAN—GRAVETTIAN ~34-22 kya

TYPICAL SYMBOLIC ART AND RITUAL TRANSFORMATION SITES

Macrolanguage Family: (U5-mtDNA?) Pre-Finno-Ugric?;
(R0=mtDNA and H17'29?) Pre-Sumerian-Basque? & (N*/N1=mtDNA) Pre-NE-Caucasic

Cougnac and Pech Merle, France



L: Pech Merle red dots, hands, entrance to side chamber with female-bison combi
R: Pech Merle red dots, entrance to *Le Combel*



Red megaloceros, ibex, marks, 'Frieze of the Megaloceros', Cougnac, Lot, France,
~25-19.5 kya

Tracing, Michel Lorblanchet. Lorblanchet M, Labeau M, Vernet JL, Fitte P, Valladas H, Cachier H, Arnold M. 1990.
Palaeolithic Pigments in the Quercy, France. *Rock Art Research* 7,1: 4-20.
3 14C red pigment dates conversion Online CalPal = ~28.7 cal kya (JBH)



Female and Male Ibex, Cougnac. 25-19.5 kya

Dolni-Vestonice, Czech Republic



Necklaces L: Arctic Fox Teeth; C: Shells; R: Owl Pendant. Dolni-Vestonice, Gravettian ~29 cal kya

T: young bovid; C: bear; L: imprint of loom-woven textile on fragment fired loess.

All photos: Don Hitchcock 2008, apparently originals, display, Dolní Věstonice Museum.



Fired Loess figurines. Dolni-Vestonice, Gravettian ~29 cal kya

T: young bovid; C: bear; L: imprint of loom-woven textile on fragment fired loess. White, Randall. 2003. *Prehistoric art: the symbolic journey of humankind*: Fig. 96-98. C and R: bear, lion, mammoth, rhino, mustelid (?mink) photos: Don Hitchcock 2008, apparently originals, display, Dolní Věstonice Museum.



Ivory sculptures. Dolni-Vestonice, Gravettian ~29 cal kya

L: 'stick with breasts', 8.5cm; Top C: 'simple human face', 4cm; Bottom C: 'breasts', W 2cm; R: 'abstract female figure', 8cm. White, Randall. 2003. *Prehistoric art: the symbolic journey of humankind*: Fig. 99-102.

Sunghir, Russia



S1 Adult and Double Child S2 and S3 Burials. Sunghir, Russia, Gravettian ~24 kya

S1 ~60 years old (~19 or 23 kya) ; S2 boy ~12-13 and S3 girl ~9-10 years old (~26 or 24 kya)

Dates: Kuzmin, Burr et al 2004. Recreation illustrations, Libor Balák from Donsmaps.com

3 burials, 13,000 ivory beads in dozens of strands. Experiments show each bead takes 1 hour to make; S1 beadwork 3,000 hours; S2 and S3 5,000 hours each. Strand of ivory beads with interlocking fox teeth. Adult man wears 24 polished mammoth ivory bracelets, some with traces black paint, some red. Around his neck, small, flat schist pendant painted red, with small black dot on one side. White R. 2003: 141-145.

Kostenki, Russia



View, Kostenki Village and the Don River Valley

(View of village of Kostenki from high ground. Distant loop of Don in distance. Photo: Vladimir Gorodnjanski, 2006. Don's Maps (online))

HOLLIDAY ET AL.



Figure 4. View to the southeast down a side valley of Pokrovskii Ravine, looking across the mouth of the ravine and the village of Kostenki to the second terrace with Kostenki 12. The floodplain of the Don River is visible in the middle and left distance. Kostenki 1 is just out of view beyond the right side of the side ravine (see Figures 3 and 5).

GEOARCHAEOLOGY OF THE KOSTENKI-BORSHCHEVO SITES

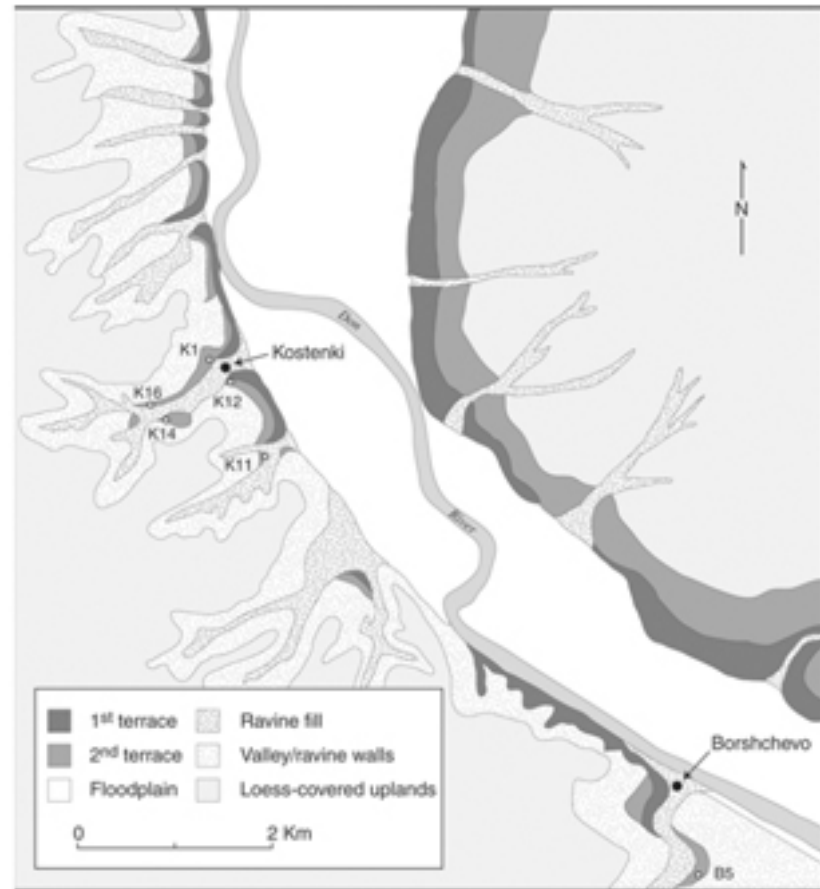
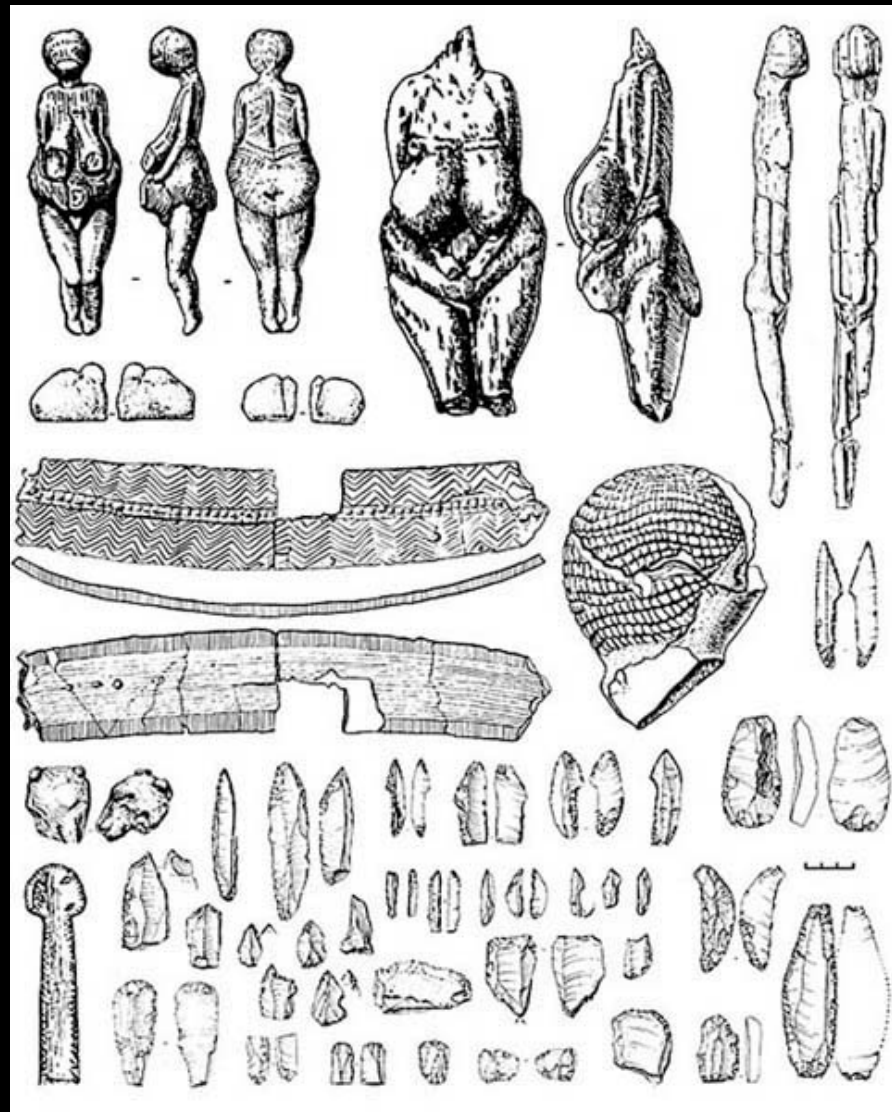


Figure 3. The Don River Valley in the Kostenki-Borshchevo area showing the principal physiographic features and the locations of the archaeological sites mentioned in the text. The areas labeled "Valley/ravine walls" include exposures of loess, till, and bedrock along with deposits of colluvium. (Based on Lazukov, 1982, Plate I)

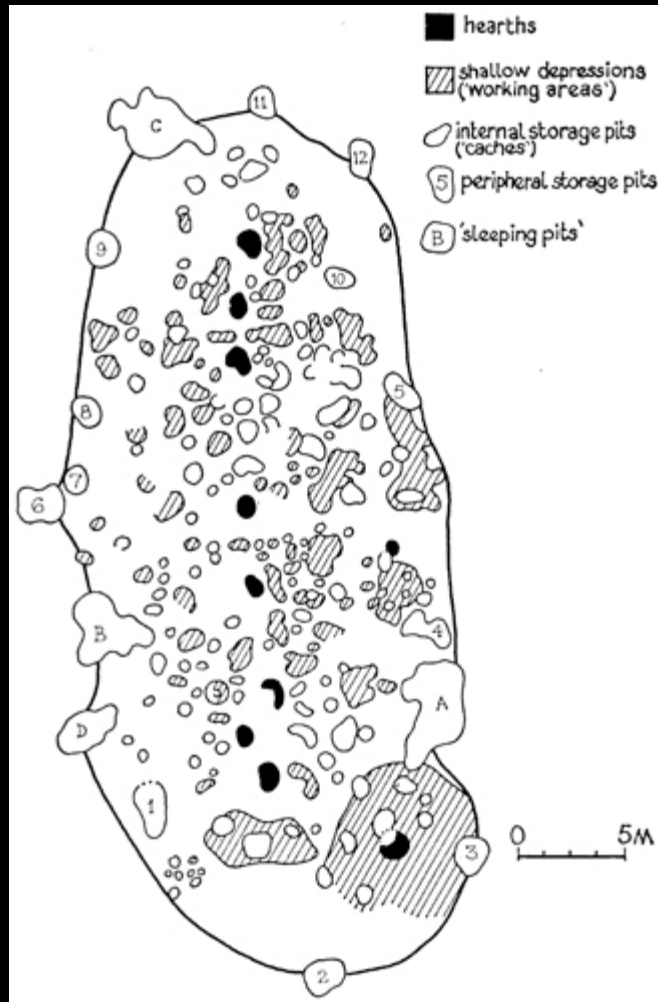
View, Kostenki 12 and Kostenki 1, K14 and K16 toward source end of the ravine, and the Don River Valley (Holliday, Hoffecker et al. 2007. *Geoarchaeology of the Kostenki-Borshchevo Sites, Don River Valley, Russia. Geoarchaeology* 22,2: fig.3, 4)



Types of Art and Tools, Kostenki 1-1, Don Valley, Russia -- Gravettian ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

Kostenki 1 art types Donsmaps from Sinitsyn 2007 after Praslov and Rogachev 1982

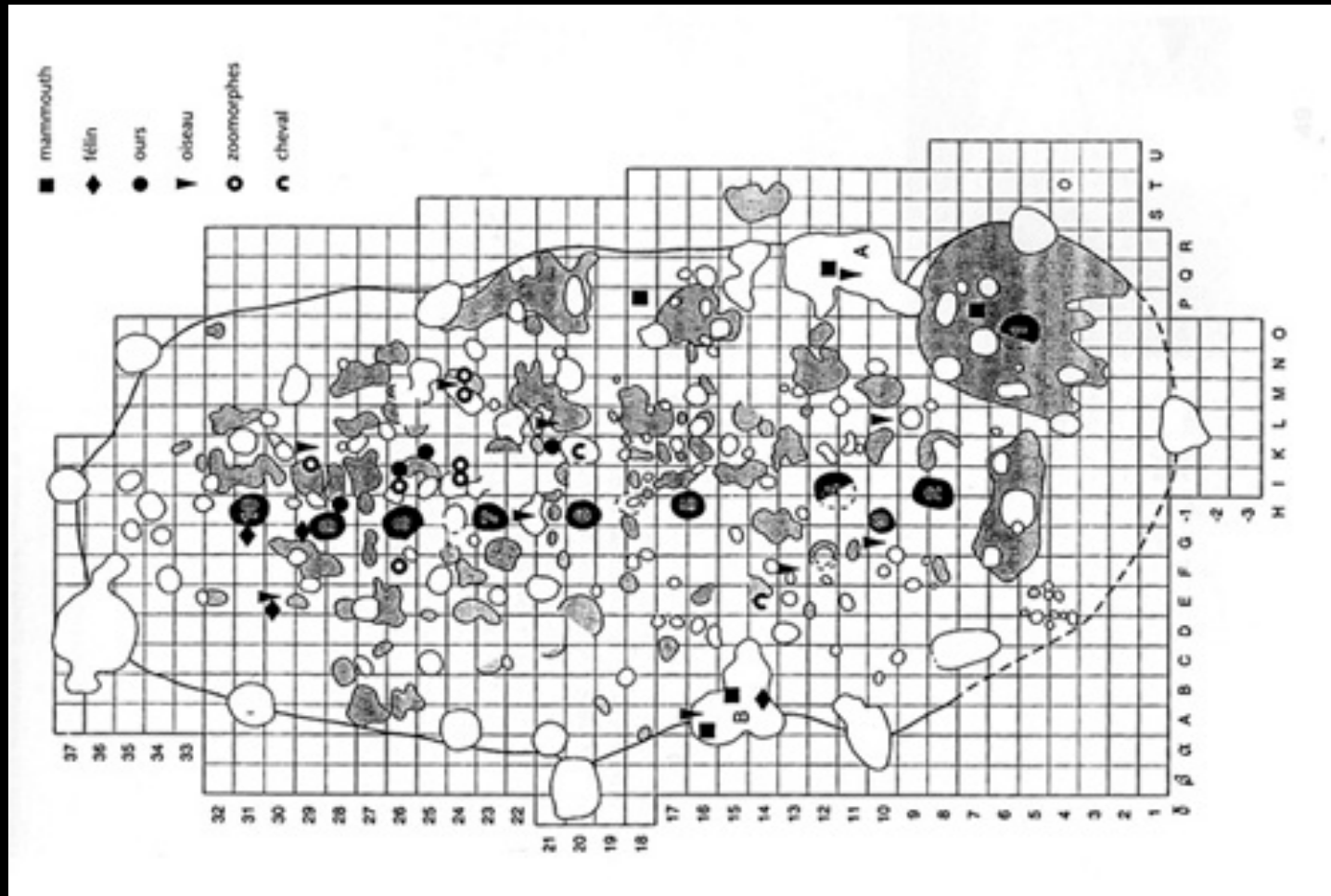
Gravettian Ritual Art Space



'Long house', Kostenki 1-1, Don River Valley, Russia -- Gravettian, ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

Excavated in the 1930s. ~35m long by ~16m wide; 9 hearths, 16 peripheral pits, 4 'sleeping areas' and 12 as 'caches', entire floor covered with 'internal storage pits'; Klein not convinced it is single structure; 6 female figurines of limestone (marl) and ivory and many fragmentary remains of figurines (Klein RG 1973. Ice-Age Hunters of the Ukraine)

Gravettian Ritual Art Space – Distribution of Zoomorphic Sculptures

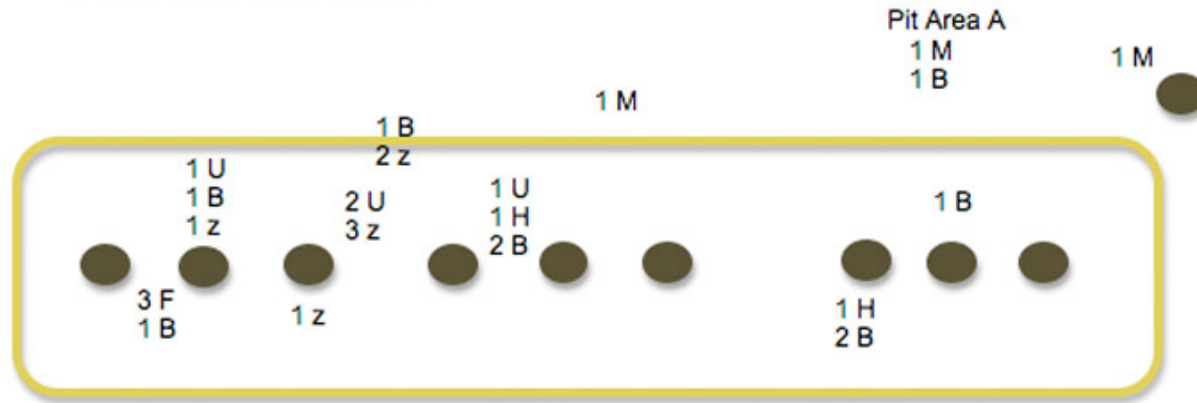


Kostenki 1, Don River Valley, Russia -- Gravettian, ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

Limestone (marl) and ivory sculptures – mammoth, horse, feline, bear, birds, indet. zoomorphs; vulva sculptures located between hearths 4 and 7, while female statuettes dispersed over entire habitation, including cached; zoomorphs in two groups, with about equal area, hearths 6-10 carnivores (feline, bear), hearths 1-5, mostly mammoths (Iakovleva L. 2004: 49, adding animals, after P. P. Efimenko)

Gravettian Ritual Art Space: Zoomorphic Sculptures

Kostenki I Hut Plan



Kostenki 1, Don River Valley, Russia -- Gravettian, ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

Limestone (marl) and ivory sculptures – mammoth, horse, feline, bear, birds, indet. zoomorphs; vulva sculptures located between hearths 4 and 7, while female statuettes dispersed over entire habitation, including cached; zoomorphs in two groups, with about equal area, hearths 6-10 carnivores (feline, bear), hearths 1-5, mostly mammoths (Iakovleva L. 2004: 49, adding animals, after P. P. Efimenko)

Kostenki I

Pit Area A

4 Female stone statue fragments
2 vulvar medallions
1 Mammoth
1 Bird/Duck

Pit Area B

5 Female statue fragments
1 Feline
2 Mammoths
1 Bird/Duck

Pit ('like miniature mammoth bone dwelling' Praslov 1985)

Cover: mammoth scapula
Fill: fine silt and red ochre
Contents:
1 Female figurine ivory on thin layer silt with 3 burned bones,
1 broken ivory diadem
Series of bone plaques
2 dozen flint tools

Pit #10

2 Female statue(s) stone fragments
1 fragment engraved stone plaque with depiction of Woman
1 Pierced Fox tooth
1 Bone blade with geometric decoration

Avdeevo

Pit with 3 clusters of artifacts:

East: 2 Female statues

Center:

1 Female statue ivory

1 ivory spatula,

1 long flint blade

South:

1 Decorated ivory spatula

1 Carved ivory facsimile of a Wolf metapodial bone

Upper fill: basic caps sediment, including dozens of skulls and mandibles of Wolverines

Middle fill: greasy black sediment containing a Lion skull

Bottom fill: reddish river sand

Gagarino

In hut walls:

10 niches, in each 1 female statuette

Pit:

Statuettes, foot bones of foxes (wrapped in fox pelts)

Schematic of Some Pit Contents. Kostenki 1, Avdeevo, Gagarino, Gravettian ~27-28 cal kya

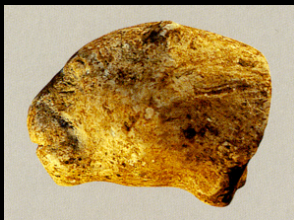
Based on pit descriptions in White, Randall. 2003. *Prehistoric art: the symbolic journey of humankind*: 138-142; combined with zoomorph locations in Iakovleva 2004. Kostenki I date: Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007

Gravettian Ritual Art Space

Female Spiritual Transformation #5: 'Double Goddess' and Her Animal Quaternion

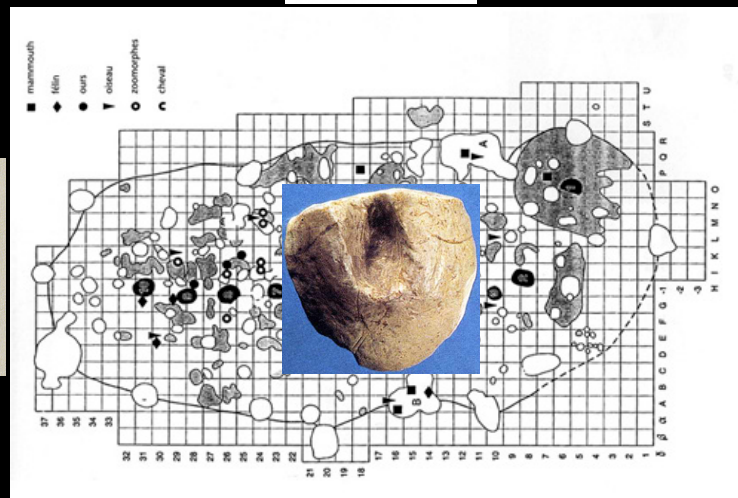


Wolverine



Predator

Lion



Prey

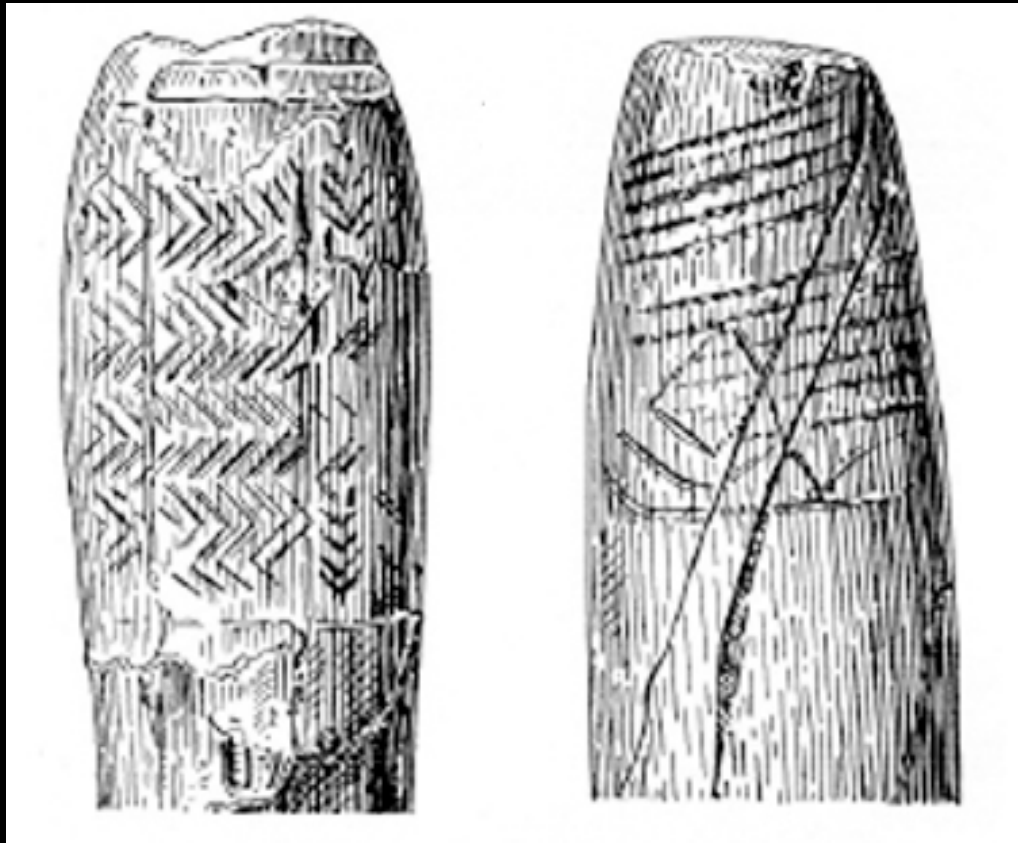
Mammoth



Waterbird

Kostenki I-1, Don River Valley, Russia -- Gravettian ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

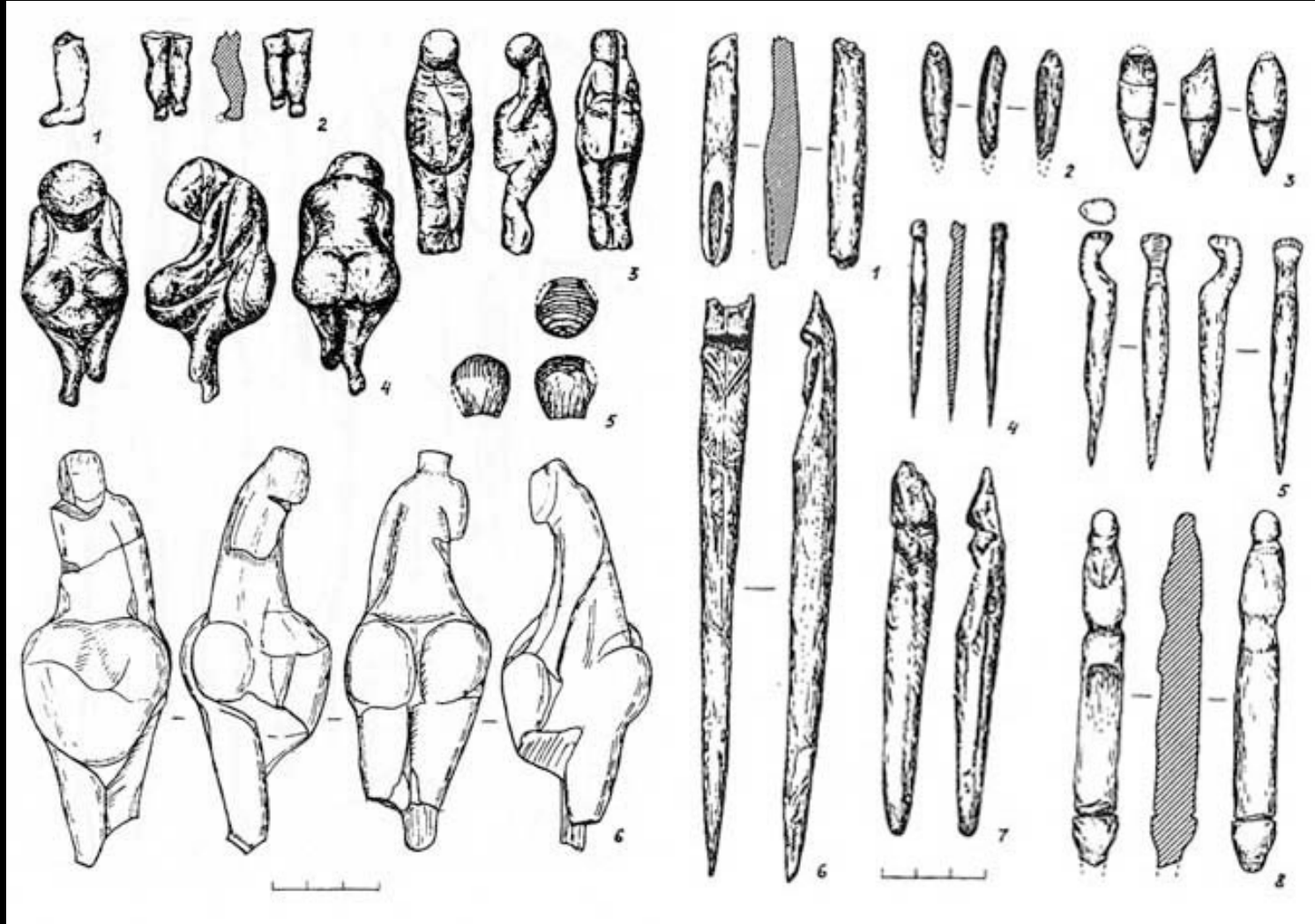
Female Spiritual Transformation #5: 'Double Goddess' Transform Signs



'Decorated Mattock', Chevrons (Zigzag), 2 Bi-Lines.

Kostenki I-1, Don River Valley, Russia, Gravettian ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

Abramova ZA. 1995. *L'art paléolithique d'Europe orientale et de Sibérie*: Fig. 66.13



Female and 'anthropomorphic' statuettes, Khotylevo II, Russia. Gravettian ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

Abramova ZA. 1995. *L'art paléolithique d'Europe orientale et de Sibérie*: Fig. 30 and 31 combined

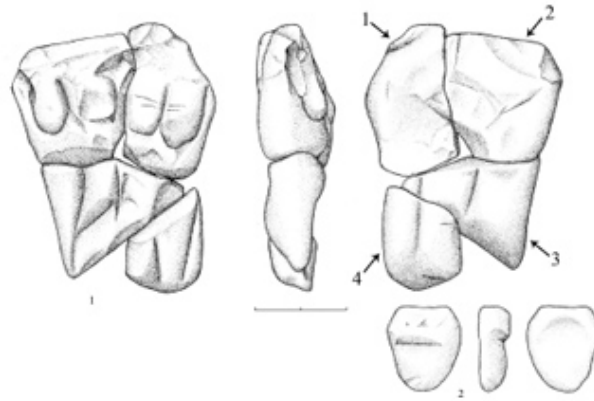


Fig. 5. Double female statuette (1) and schematic figure (2) carved out of chalk.
(Drawing by A.V. Trusov.)



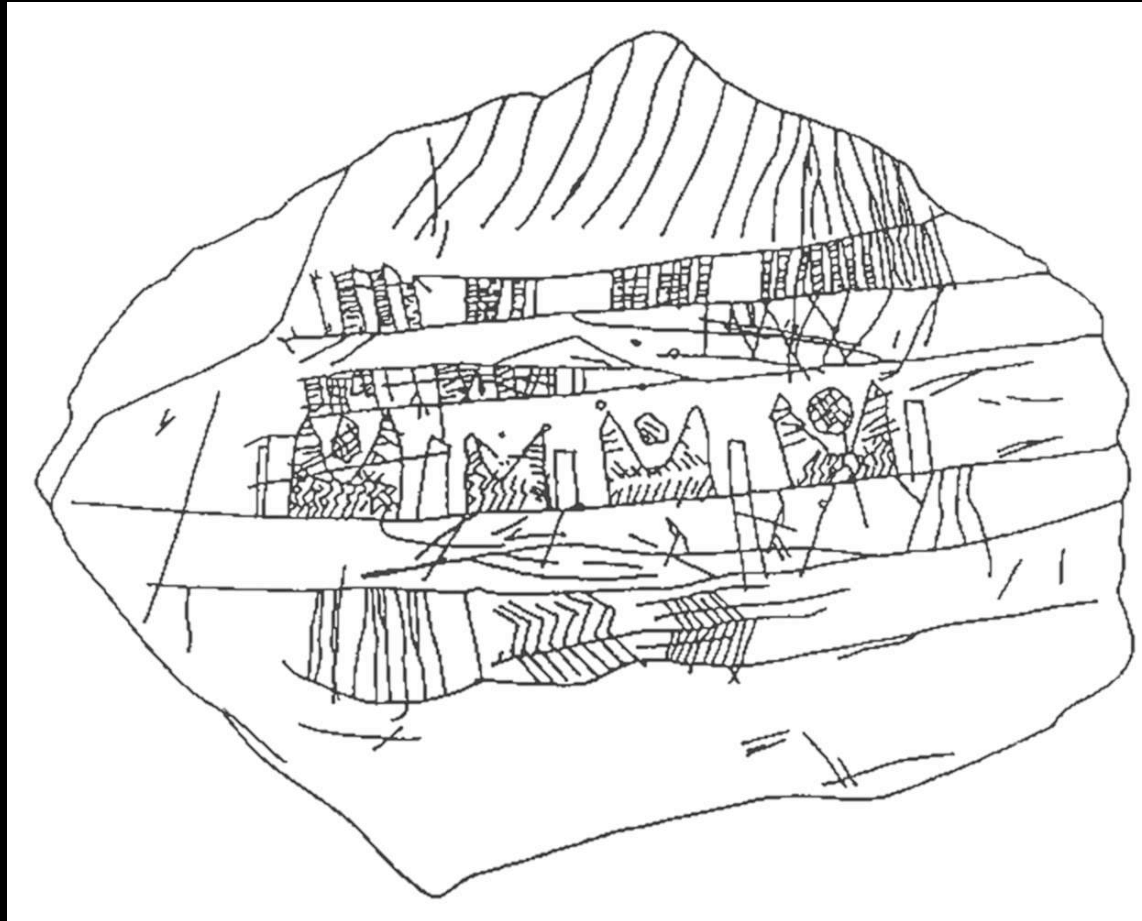
Fig. 6. Double female statuette and schematic figure carved out of chalk.
(Photo by D.O. Ozherel'ev.)

'Double Female' statuette, Khotylevo II, Desna River, Russia. Gravettian ~27-28 cal kya (Holliday, Hoffecker et al 2007)

Gavrilov KN. 2010. A new female figurines from the site Khotylevo 2: Fig. 5, 6. *Paper, L'art pléistocène dans le monde, IFRAO IRAC 2010.*



Mezhirich mammoth bone hut, Gravettian
shrine with decorated mammoth skull and with figurines
(B. Johnson, Buffie. *Lady of the Beasts* pl 13)



'Decorated Mammoth Tusk', Mezhirich, Rosava into Ros River, Ukraine. Epi-Gravettian ~13-16 kya (Iakovleva 2004)

Interpretation: The 6-Worlds of Shamanic Cosmos (James Harrod). Others interpret as earliest map with huts and river.

No source, but compare Abramova ZA. 1995. *L'art paléolithique d'Europe orientale et de Sibérie*: Fig. 13.1

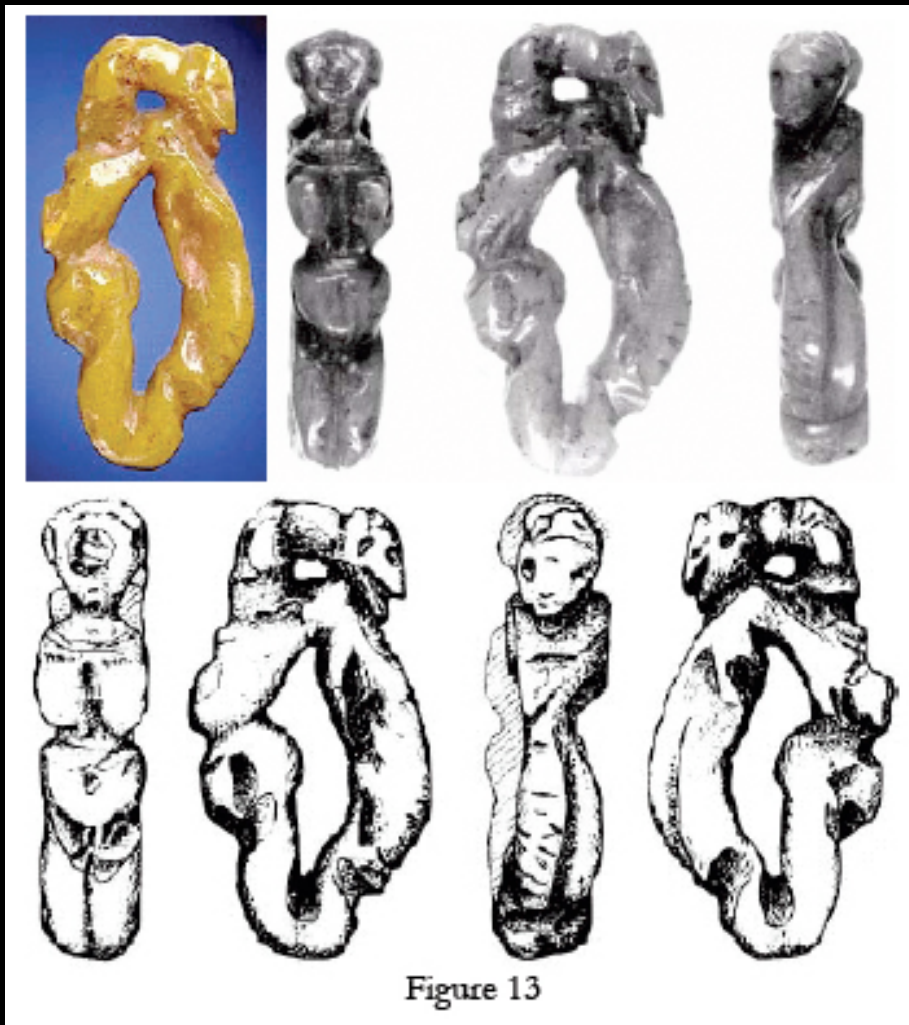


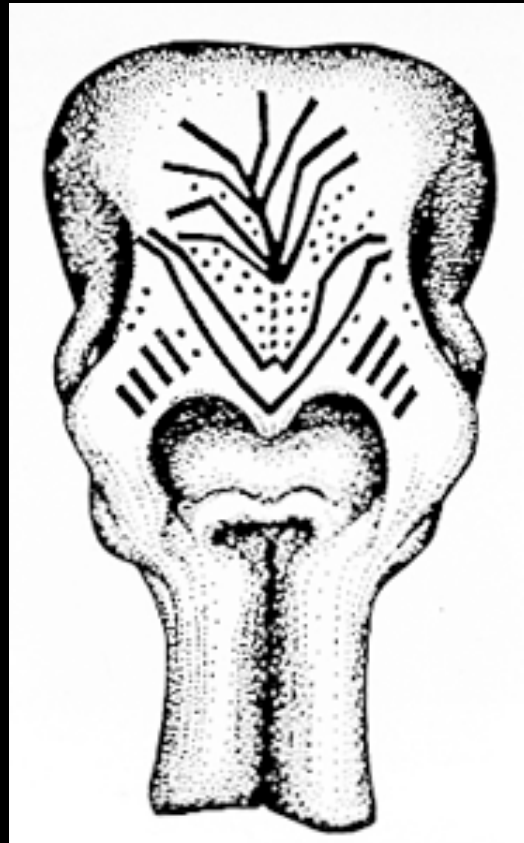
Figure 13



2 'Double Figurines', Grimaldi, NW Italy. Epi-Gravettian ~14-19 kya (Bisson, Tisnerat and White 1996)

Human female, obverse 'uncertain, not reptile, probably carnivore, not feline: fox or wolf, or marten or wolverine) Bisson and Bolduc 1994.
 Jennett KD. 2008. Female Figurines of the Upper Paleolithic: Fig. 13, Thesis, Texas State University. Collage after Bisson MS, Bolduc P. 1994.
Current Anthropology 35,4: 458-468; sketch: Mussi 2002; color: www.civilization.ca/archeo/paleofig/imag/palfig6a.gif;
[palfig5a.gif](#); [palfig7a.gif](#)

Female Spiritual Transformation #2: 'Tree of Life / Vulva-Seed Source / Birthgiver'



'Decorated Mammoth Skull', Dwelling No. 1, Mezhirich, Don Basin, Ukraine

Epi-Gravettian ~13-16 kya (Iakovleva 2004)

'Reconstruction mammoth skull painted with red ochre', W: 60cm, after Pidoplichko; Bahn P and Vertut J. 1997. *Journey Through the Ice Age*: fig 7.6