

CONCLUSION

Eastern Europe and the Siberian region are rich in Palaeolithic art finds. The found objects mostly include items of jewellery, examples of miniature sculptural art and ornamented objects. Cave paintings have been found in the Urals. The number of engraved figurative art objects discovered in these regions is considerably smaller.

The most evenly represented motif in the area under discussion is female figurines or the sc. Palaeolithic Venus figures. Their large-scale distribution and detailed elaboration reflects how the worldview of a Pleistocene man was connected to the fertility cult. Some paintings discovered in the Ignatievka cave also refer to the fertility cult.

Another motif frequently used in the miniature plastic art and cave paintings of Eastern and Central Europe is the large fauna of the glacial period. Rhinoceroses and larger predators are depicted next to mammoths. Representations of large animals are almost non-existent in the Palaeolithic art of the Siberian region where the most common animal-like figures depict birds, especially swans.

Almost all the mentioned sites have yielded a plethora of jewellery: pendants, beads, bracelets and headbands. The same applies to ornamentation, which varies considerably from region to region. Pre-historic art of this type is most diverse and plentiful in the Ukrainian and Central Russian regions.

The gradual diversification of mythological beliefs brought along considerable aesthetic progress in the art of the Upper-Palaeolithic period. Many bone and stone sculptures, engravings, items of jewellery and cave paintings of this period may even today be treasured as examples of exquisite art.

Comment

¹ Cal – stands for calibrated (i.e. recalculated into solar or calendar years) radiocarbon dating. Geologists and researchers of paleoclimate and the Palaeolithic mostly use the conventional scale, which datings are generally younger unless they include corrections.

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