



Art of the Palaeolithic: The Dawn of Art - ICE AGE ART

By Professor Maria Chester, a member of BRAG - British Rock Art Group.

30th April, 7th May, 14th May 2019 10 -12noon

William Elder Building, 56 -58 Castlegate, Berwick TD15 1JT

This three week course will introduce you the latest research on Palaeolithic Rock Art (also called Ice Age Art) which dates from around 40,000 years ago and can be found in every continent except Antarctica.

More than 40.000 years ago, people created many different kinds of images, some simple and some complex. It can be easy to identify rock art images of humans, animals, or natural objects such as the sun. Geometric and abstract images are also common in rock art. What these images were meant to depict and why they were made are interesting questions that anthropologists and archaeologists try to answer by studying how the images were made, where they are located, and which images occur together, and by trying to identify which groups produced them. Sometimes we can trace a relationship between geometric or abstract designs and other more naturalistic motifs that are easier to identify, but many rock art images remain enigmatic and difficult to interpret.

In this short course we shall visit enigmatic caves such as Chauvet in France, and Altamira in Spain. We shall also visit the Americas, Australia and Africa. The oldest paintings found until the present day are located in Indonesia and South Africa. Since the 19th century, archaeologists have tried to imagine what ancient people might have thought or believed when they painted the walls of those caves. **Cognitive Archaeology** is the study of old ways of thinking inferred from material remains and is one of the newest branches of archaeology. ICE AGE ART has been perceived to be the field of the art historian, therefore the archaeological perspective has been missing. Cognitive Archaeology sustains that early man's abilities to create symbols came with the development of language rather than making tools.

Course content

30th April Part 1: Introduction to Palaeolithic and the concept of rock art. Ice Age Art
In Europe: Altamira Cave, Spain

7th May Part 2: Palaeolithic Art in Europe: Chauvet Cave, France.

14th May Part 3: Palaeolithic Art in the rest of the world and conclusions.

The cost of the course is £18, including refreshments. All are welcome and no previous knowledge is assumed.

If you supply us with your personal data (name, address or email), we will hold this in accordance with our privacy policy, available [here](#) or by request to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX. If you have any queries, please email berwickea@gmail.com or phone Cian McHugh on 01289 303254

To book online, [please click here](#) To book by mail, please fill in the booking form below, and mail to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX along with a cheque in favour of BEA.

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(*Palaeolithic Art*)