The Origins of Mind.

For 40,000 years, men have carved, sculpted and painted the rocks everywhere in the world...
In front of the painted ibexes and bison inside the Black room in Niaux. Prehistoric men used the faint light coming from grease lamps (reconstitution).


Lascaux. Cave painting in the hall of Bulls.

CHAUVET cavern. Big panel of the Horses. © DRAC Rhône-Alpes.

Lascaux cave. An auroch which corresponds to the constellation of the Bull according to Chantal Jègues-Wolkiewicz’s calculations.

Lascaux. According to Chantal Jègues’s theory, the upside down horse symbolizes the setting sun in the bottom of the cave.

Chantal Jègues-Wolkiewiez’s drawing the outlines of aurochs on a map of the corresponding constellations.

Lascaux cave. Unicorn and Capricorn constellation scaled up according to Chantal Jègues-Wolkiewiez’s works.

Lascaux cave. Auroch drawn over the constellation of the Bull according to Chantal Jègues-Wolkiewiez’s studies.

Lascaux cave. An auroch which corresponds to the constellation of the Lion according to Chantal Jègues’s calculations.

Lascaux cave. Auroch set in comparison with the constellation of the Lion according to Chantal Jègues-Wolkiewiez’s studies.

In the Black Room in Niaux (Ariège, France), Jean Clottes lights up a grease lamp to reveal a charcoal-drawn bison on the wall.

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One of the bison in the Black Room inside the Niaux Cavern. Magdalenian period (one of the dozens of periods dividing Prehistory).

One of the panels in the Black Room of the Niaux cavern, Magdalenian period.
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Through pictorial creation, the shaman became literally together as one with the rock and the supernatural world beyond it. (reconstitution)

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« Positive hands » or Hand Stencils were made by directly applying the palms of the hands to the rock. (reconstitution)

Shamans considered caves as gates to the supernatural world, fraught with feminine symbolism.

This little ibex in the Black Room is one of the wonders of the Niaux cave. The zigzag shape of its horn recalls the second stage of shamanic trance.

Red snake-like shape in the Llonin cavern, Spain. © Jean Clottes.

The figure next to the dying antelope is that of a shaman half transmogrified in an antelope. It is a metaphor for the phenomenon of trance. Natal region, Drakensberg.

An artist’s representation of an unidentified engraving in the cave of the Three Brothers (Montesquieu-Avantès, Ariège, France) known as the little wizard with the musical Bow.

The little wizard in the Three Brothers Cave as reported by H. Breuil. Montesquieu-Avantès, Ariège, France.

Jean Clottes next to American Indian cave paintings. (she-who-watches) Northwest of the USA, Columbia Valley. Washington state. © Jim Keyser

Jean Clottes on the left with David Coulson and Alec Campbell. Carvings from the Aïr region in Niger.

The cliff of the cirque d’Estre, France. The way to the Chauvet cave... © Pedro Lima

Large panel of Lions. Chauvet cave. © DRAC Rhône-Alpes.

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<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Engraved horse. Chauvet's cave. © DRAC Rhône-Alpes.</td>
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<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Engraved rhinoceros. Chauvet's cave. © DRAC Rhône-Alpes.</td>
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<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Painted buffalo. Chauvet's cave. © DRAC Rhône-Alpes.</td>
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<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Painted lioness. Chauvet's cave. © DRAC Rhône-Alpes.</td>
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<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Aerial view of the Calanques in Marseille, France. Cosquer cave. France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Underwater topographic plotting of the Cosquer cave, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Reading of the engravings through tangential lighting by Jean Courtin in the Cosquer cave, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Painted horse. Cosquer cave. Marseilles, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Painted penguin. Cosquer cave. Marseilles, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Painted seal. Cosquer cave. Marseilles, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Painted horses. Cosquer cave. Marseilles, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image12.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Half-immersed painted horses. Cosquer cave. Marseilles, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image13.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Painted stag. Cosquer cave. Marseilles, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.</td>
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<td><img src="image14.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>25,000 years old engravings of Ibex in Foz-Coa, Portugal. © François Gilson.</td>
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<td><img src="image15.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>An engraving of a bull in the ?Valley of Wonders?, France dating from the Bronze Age. © François Gilson.</td>
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Sun carved in the “Valley of Wonders”, France dating from the Bronze Age. © François Gilson.


Topographic plotting technique is necessary to the searcher’s work, permitting the discovery of details invisible to the naked eye.

In the black room of Niaux (Ariège, France), Jean Clottes is studying a bison drawn with charcoal on the wall. © Ministère Français de la Culture.

At the Tandétron of Gif-sur-Yvette, near Paris, France, searchers are able to date samples collected in the cave.

At the Tandétron of Gif-sur-Yvette, near Paris, France, a few charcoal samples collected in the Chauvet cave.© Ministère Français de la Culture.

At the Tandétron of Gif-sur-Yvette, near Paris, France, the gas sample is vacuum-conditioned for analysis.

A panel in the Chauvet cave, decorated with dots made by applying the palms of the hands. © D. Baffier-V. Feruglio/Ministère de la Culture.

A panel in the Chauvet cave, decorated with dots made by applying the palms of the hands. Interpretation of the position of the hands. © D. Baffier-V. Feruglio/Ministère de la Culture.

At the Tandétron of Gif-sur-Yvette, near Paris, France, the gas sample is vacuum-conditioned for analysis.

Reading of engravings with a tangential lighting by Jean Courtin in the Cosquer cave, France. © Ministère Français de la Culture.