

### **31,000 CHAUVET CAVE AND VULVA ENGRAVINGS**

*The female sexes, frequent at the very beginning (Chauvet, Cosquer [and] several shelters in Dordogne), can also be found in the Solutrean and above all in the Magdalenian (Font-Bargeix, Bedeilhac). That sexual theme is thus a constant of the Upper Paleolithic, with more or less frequent occurrences according to the times and places. (PAF: 4.)*

The Chauvet Cave complex, discovered in 1994, is located in southeast France near Vallon-Pont-d'Arc in the Ardeche region, renowned as Europe's richest collection of Paleolithic art and considered to be the oldest cave with such high level painting. "Different periods of visitation are dated between 31,000 and 27,000 (23,000) [BCE]" (PO: 128). In addition to funerary remains, ochre and charcoal artwork includes numerous animals, hand stencils, and triangles, plus the Chauvet Venus and Sorcerer.

The cave walls have richly decorated paintings and engravings of numerous different animals and several birds including an owl and eagle. Two world-renowned drawings include the lioness panel plus the panel of four horses' heads. The Sorcerer and the Chauvet Venus are located deep inside the cave in the Salle du Fond Chambers. Three additional pubic triangles are located at the entrances of each adjoining cavities.

Although discussing later Cycladic finds c. 3300-2000 BCE, Gimbutas' reflections also relate to engravings throughout the ancient world including the Chauvet's Venus and pubic triangle:

Through the act of engraving an enormous triangle in the center of the sculpture the artist perhaps visualized the universal womb, the inexhaustible source of life, to which the dead man [deceased] returns in order to be born again. In this sense the Great Goddess is the magician-mother. (GGE: 159.)

For further cave and grotto research see keywords: Cosquer; Grotte de Bédeilhac; Laugerie Basse; Font-Bargeix; Cussac; Venus of Cussac; and Perigueux.

For a selection of finds from the Chauvet cave plus other artifacts from near-by caves, see the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum in the Palais de la Berbie just off the Cathedral Square in Albi, France.

For Paleolithic art and cave websites see:

<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/chaudet/fr/>

[http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/chaudet/chaudet\\_venus.php](http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/chaudet/chaudet_venus.php)

<http://www.donsmaps.com/indexsites.html>

<http://www.donsmaps.com/indexpaintings.html>

<http://www.donsmaps.com/ukrainevenus.html>

For other considerations see:

Wildgen, Wolfgang. "The Paleolithic Origins of Art, Its Dynamic and Topological Aspects, and the Transition to Writing." *Semiotic Evolution and the Dynamics of Culture*. Eds. Bax, Marcel, Barend van Heusden, and Wolfgang Wildgen. Bern: Peter Lang, 2004. (PO: 128-132)

Recommended article that initiated this *Re-Genesis* entry:

Thurman, Judith. "Letters From Southern France: Impressions, What Were the Earliest Painters Thinking?" *New Yorker* 84.18 (June 23, 2008) 59-67. (LFSF)

For additional cave information see BCE entries: 15,000-12,000, Lascaux Cave; 15,000-10,000, Magdalenian Age; and 13,000-11,000, Altamira Cave.

For additional Paleolithic information see BCE entries: 1,000,000-10,000, Paleolithic Overview; 1,000,000-50,000, Early (Lower) Paleolithic Age; 50,000-10,000, Late (Upper) Paleolithic Age; 50,000-30,000, Mousterian Age; 34,000-28,000, Les Eyzies Vulva Engravings, Dordogne Caves; 31,000, Chauvet Cave and Vulva Engraving; 30,000-25,000, Aurignacian Age; 30,000-25,000, Goddess of Willendorf; 25,000-20,000, Gravettian Age; 25,000-20,000, Goddess of Laussel; 24,000, Dolni Vestonice; 23,000, Goddess of Lespugue; 22,000, Maiden with Hood from Brassempouy; 20,000-15,000, Solutrean Age; 15,000-10,000, Magdalenian Age; 15,000-12,000, Lascaux Cave; and 12,000, Pumukale / Hierapolis, Anatolia (Central Turkey).

For examples of vulva photos examples, see BCE entries: 34,000-28,000, Les Eyzies Vulva Engravings, Dordogne Caves; 30,000-25,000, Aurignacian Age; 30,000-25,000, Goddess of Willendorf; 25,000-20,000, Goddess of Laussel; 5300-4300, Climactic Phase and Script in Old Europe; 3000-2000, Cycladic Goddesses; 2600-2000, Early Bronze Age, Crete, Chthonian; and 400, Celtic Sheela-na-gig.

For additional V/triangle/vulvic information, see BCE entries: 70,000, Blombos Cave; 34,000-28,000; Les Eyzies Vulva Engravings, Dordogne Caves; 30,000-25,000, The Aurignacian Age; 30,000, Labyrinth, Spirals, and Meanders; 8000/7000-5000, Early Neolithic; 7000-5000, Early Neolithic Crete; 5500-3500, Cucuteni (Tipolye) Culture, Eastern Europe; 5300-4300, Climactic Phase and Script in Old Europe; 4000-3500, Gavrinis: Brittany, France; 2000, Asherah; 1790-1700, Goddess of Kultepe, Anatolia; and 1500, Lachish Ewer, Triangle, and Menorah.

For additional information on ancient ochre, see BCE entries: 500,000-300,000, Dark Mother Tan-Tan of Morocco; 285,000, Ochre At Kapthurin Formation Plus Other Sites; 280,000-250,000, The Berekhat Ram Figure; 92,000, Qafzeh Cave and Ochre Symbolism; 70,000, Blombos Cave and V Shaped Engraving; 50,000,

African Homo Sapien Migrations and Matrilineal Motherline; 10,000, Grotta Dell'addaura; 2600-2000, Early Bronze Age, Crete, Chthonian Prepalatial/Early Minoan (Em I-Iii); and 1500, Lachish Ewer, Triangle, and Menorah.

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