

THE ROLE OF RELIGION, MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT IN PREHISTORIC AND TRIBAL ART

*UISPP-CISENP (International Scientific Committee on the Intellectual and
Spiritual Expressions of Non-literate People)*

ART AND RELIGION PROJECT

Dear colleague and friend,

What is the role of religion, magic and witchcraft in prehistoric and tribal art? Why memorizing myths and other aspects of oral traditions in visual art? What is the function of rock art or of mobile art, as intellectual and spiritual expression of non-literate peoples? I am pleased to invite you to present a paper in reply to one or more of these queries. Please focus your text on a specific example or idea.

Since the first attempts at explaining the intellectual and spiritual motivations of prehistoric art, over a century ago, several theories were proposed. Some years ago, I summarized the various aspects of 12 major theoretical approaches to the topic (*Aux origines de l'art*, Paris, Fayard, 2003). Recent research is bringing to light a broader variety of conceptual concerns in the creation of rock art and of mobile art, in Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania. The diffusion of firsthand information on specific cases and/or ideas, may contribute to an updating on the state of the art. Please try to make of your paper a valid contribution to attain this goal.

The confrontation of ideas and of methods turns out to be a valid contribution to the open forum of non-conventional scientific analysis. A few months ago we addressed the query: "Prehistoric and Tribal Art: When, Why and to Whom" to a number of colleagues and had a response far beyond expectations. This "WWW project" received texts from over 100 scholars and thinkers from five continents. Out of them, about 50 papers are now in the process of being edited in forthcoming issues of EXPRESSION Magazine, and then published in a volume form, representing meaningful and most interesting contributions from 30 countries and different cultural environments. The pressure on fast reply contributed to a dynamic participation.

This new project now (Art and Religion project) is following the same concept. Short papers of 1,500 to 3,000 words are allowed up to 4 illustrations each. Illustrations (definition 600dpi) should be separate from the text and each illustration should have a caption and be pertinent to the topic selected. The papers resulting meaningful to a worldwide debate are going to be published in the international magazine EXPRESION and then as a volume. Please indicate as soon as possible the title you intend to present. Your fast reply will be appreciated. Possibly avoid general conceptual disquisitions, unless they are of a strongly innovative nature. Could you make it in 30 days? The deadline for the presentation of the final paper is 30 days from this e-mail.

We look forward to the pleasure of reading your paper. Many thanks for your cooperation and cordial regards.

Emmanuel

Note: Please reply, make your proposals and send your paper to: "Art and Religion Project", email: atelier.etno@gmail.com.