

Art History

#1: Prehistoric Art

Text: Art Through the Ages
Art Past / Art Present

Pages 15 - 28
Pages 23 - 31

Context:

- the role of written language as a source for understanding the past
- the importance of understanding the relationship of **context** and **function** when studying art
- Alberti's theory of Image by Chance "I believe that the arts of those who attempt to create images and likenesses . . . **originated in the following way.** They probably observed in a tree-trunk or clod of earth and other similar inanimate objects certain outlines in which, with slight alterations, something very similar to . . . nature was represented. They began . . . [to] take away or otherwise supply whatever seemed lacking to offoot and complo to the true likeness."

Works of Art:

Alberti in On Sculpture

<u>Feline headed human, Statuette</u>	c. 30,000 BCE	p. 17	(sculpture)
<u>Statuette ("Venus of Willendorf"), Austria</u>	c. 25,000 BCE	p. 18	
<u>Cave paintings at Lascaux, France</u>	c. 15,000 BCE	p. 22	(painting)
<u>Cave paintings at Altamira, Spain</u>	c. 12,000 BCE	p. 20	
<u>Clay bison at Le Tuc d'Audoubert, France</u>	c. 12,000 BCE	p.19	
<u>Stonehenge -- Neolithic construction, England</u>	c. 2000 BCE	P.28	(architecture)

^ * note time difference

Vocabulary:

Paleolithic	Neolithic	schematic	animism	undulation
shaman / shamanism / shamanistic			mimetic	

Techniques:

(art making techniques and terms)

Architecture: (Stonehenge)	post and lintel construction	megalith	trilithon
	sarsen stones	blue stones	
Two-dimensional art work:	silhouette (vs frontal view)	contour / contour line	
	aerial view	twisted perspective / composite view	
Three-dimensional art work:	additive vs subtractive method (of making sculpture)		
	statuette (or figurine)	relief (sculpture)	

Ideas / Concepts:

- 1: **origins of art making:** mimetic / mimesis (see Alberti quote in "Context" section above)
 - "**image by chance**" (Alberti's theory of the beginnings of art, quoted at the top of this paper)
 - **simplest form of image making:** **schematic** representation = icon / iconic
- 2: **Image-making concepts / ideas** (relating to drawing / painting):
 - **twisted perspective** (images of animals in the cave paintings at Lascaux)
 - **silhouette** and **contour** (know the difference between these two terms)
 - **aerial view** *versus* **side view** of a figure/animal (**Why?**)
 - "**optical**" vs "**descriptive**" views of objects (in two dimensional representational art)
- 3: animation / animism (as it relates to undulating surface of the caves at Lascaux)
- 4: the importance of knowing the **context** (including original site / circumstances of art work)
- 5: what is **abstraction** and why is it used?

Art History

“vocab” test and worksheet: _____

Vocabulary / Ideas and Concepts / Facts Art and Architectural Terms

Clearly print or write your answers on the line provided:

- 1: "The outline of a figure / form viewed as circumscribing a mass" (i.e. filled in flat shape): _____
- 2: In art, to design in such a way that apparently spontaneous lifelike movement is effected _____
Give an example from Prehistoric art _____
- 3: The word often used to describe a surface that curves in and out: _____
- 4: A religious person thought to have special powers of healing or seeing the future: _____
- 5: The simplest, most direct presentation of an image (often just using line) _____ OR _____
- 6: The theory regarding Prehistoric art making that creating images was initially suggested by natural rock formations or found objects which were then altered: _____
- 7: Line describing the edges of an object is called _____
- 8: The Greek word for the idea that earliest "art" was just copying or mimicing nature is called _____
- 9: Representing two points of view within a single figure in a painting: _____
- 10: The function and context of Prehistoric works of art are unknown because _____
- 11: The name of one of the "earliest known sculpture" is _____
- 12: Drawing something from above is called the _____ view.
- 13: The two basic methods of making sculpture are _____ and _____
- 14: Drawing something from above is thought to mean _____
- 15: Drawing an animal from the side view is drawing it in _____
- 16: Why do archeologist think prehistoric draftsmen drew figures in this way? _____

- 17: Who discovered the Royal Cemetery of Ur _____ when _____
- 18: The use of large elements - technically stones: _____
- 19: Term for each one of the five larger structures that were arranged in a horseshoe shape on the inside of Stonehenge (each one made up of three stones) _____
- 20: The method of construction used in Stonehenge _____ and _____
- 21: The two types of stone used in the construction of Stonehenge _____ and _____
- 22: The basic definition of sculpture is _____
The basic definition of painting is _____
The basic definition of architecture is _____
