



Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie Sachsen-Anhalt
LANDESMUSEUM FÜR VORGESCHICHTE

Halle, 25th June 2018

Invitation / Call for Papers

International & Interdisciplinary Conference on "Mesolithic Art - Abstraction, Decoration, Messages" Halle (Saale), Germany, 19th-21st September 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

what do we know about Mesolithic art? In the Late Glacial and early Postglacial period the naturalistic figurative graphic depictions of animals flourishing in Ice Age Europe disappeared more or less completely. A new style - abstract and geometric - emerged, carried out using fine incisions as well as pricked and drilled dots. It is mostly found on tools, personal ornaments and other portable artefacts. In addition, rock-engravings and sculptured and painted objects are also preserved from the Mesolithic. The motifs and patterns are limited in number and often occur regionally and supra-regionally, possibly including symbols, information and communications.

The conference aims to investigate the new significant and distinctive style of the Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic hunter-fisher-gatherers. We will try to explore the possible reasons for its creation; its meaning, function and possible indications of the early origin of writing. Representations of the landscape seem to have been engraved, as well as pictorial messages from one human group to another.

The conference is addressed to archaeologists working on Mesolithic art but also to art historians, anthropologists, ethnologists and psychologists. The meeting will be held at the **State Museum of Prehistory (Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte, Richard-Wagner-Str. 9, DE - 06114 Halle/Saale)**. As we are going to apply for financial support to cover most of the costs of the conference, we need a preliminary list of speakers. The conference fee is 75,- EUR (including the proceedings). If you are interested in participating in the conference, please send an email with the tentative title of your contribution (oral or poster) before **1st October 2018** to the following address: **JGruenberg@lda.stk.sachsen-anhalt.de**. The language of the meeting will be English. The oral presentations are limited to 25 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions. Poster presentations are encouraged. The papers will be collected and published as a separate volume. More information will soon be available on the website of the Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie Sachsen-Anhalt (<http://www.archlsa.de>).

We are looking forward to seeing you next year in Halle
With best wishes

H. Meller (Halle/Saale) E. Brinch Petersen (Copenhagen) B. Gramsch (Potsdam)
T. Płonka (Wrocław) J. M. Grünberg (Halle/Saale)