

PREHISTORIC ART IN EUROPE

Emmanuel Anati

The World Archives of Rock Art (WARA) is undertaking a global analysis of the motivations for art and of the conceptual background of the artistic creativity of 50,000 years of art in five continents. This survey, which concerns rock art in 160 countries around the world, reveals the role of prehistoric visual art as a paramount source for the historic reconstruction of the human past. It also illustrates the elementary aesthetic and conceptual values of humankind; Europe's prehistoric art is looked at in its world context. My presentation is a general overview which intends to fit European prehistoric art into a world frame. It does not enter into the most challenging and fascinating aspect of the research, which is the decoding or the reading of messages that prehistoric man intended to convey. That is an aspect to be faced in another venue.

Professor Emmanuel Anati is President of CISPE (International Centre for Prehistoric and Ethnologic Studies) and Chairman of UISPP-CISENP (*Union Internationale des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques*—Commission Internationale Scientifique) '*Les expressions intellectuelles et spirituelles des peuples sans écriture*'. He is the founder and Director of *Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici in Capo di Ponte, Italy*.

Professor Anati has been Professor of Prehistory at Tel-Aviv University, Israel and Professor Ordinarius of Palaeoethnology at the University of Lecce, Italy. He has taught in other universities and research institutes in Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Israel, the United States and Canada. His main scientific interests are the art and religion of prehistoric and tribal cultures. He has conducted research in Western Europe, the Near East, India, Australia and other countries.

Professor Anati's work in Valcamonica, where he founded and heads the *Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici*, has led UNESCO to include the rock art of this Alpine valley in its list of World Cultural Heritage sites. He created and directs the publishing house *Edizioni del Centro* that has published over 100 titles on art, archaeology and anthropology. The editing of several prestigious publications are also to Professor Anati's credit. He is the Director of *World Journal of Prehistoric and Tribal Art* (BCSP). He headed the series *The Footsteps of Man* for the Cambridge University Press and the series *Le Orme dell'Uomo* for Jaca Book, Milan. He has written over 70 volumes and numerous monographs for leading publishers in Europe and America. Professor Anati's works have been published in over 20 languages.

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