



THEORETICAL AND COGNITIVE ASPECTS OF **ROCK ART**

Edited by
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Rock art is a collection of diverse categories of representations covering symbolic, artistic, magico-religious and socio-economic components of human culture from the prehistoric to modern age. It is a form of historical record that helps us to understand the development of artistic and cultural traditions and belief systems. Rock art of India can be better understood through studies focusing on theoretical perspectives. It represents the development of cognition and also reflects the variation in the cognition of different phenomena.

There is no universal method for interpretation of rock art. In rock art studies the subjectivity always exists, leading to speculative identifications and interpretations. Logical interpretations of the message intended to be conveyed by the authors of rock art need to be done quite precisely without any preconceived ideas or bias.

The present volume addresses important issues related to theoretical as well as cultural resources associated with rock art worldwide, including the evolution of perspectives and relative sizes in rock art. It addresses the technical aspects and recent methodologies adopted in interpreting rock art such as choice of colours, association with recovered tools and technological evidence like smelting. The former may address the jurisdiction and interpretation of rock art while the latter includes neuroscience data, cognitive mapping and evolution of complexity in rock art and a critical examination of the shamanistic function of rock art. Largely they account for a comprehensive understanding of the occurrence of rock art as a universal phenomenon.

The papers included in the present volume highlight the immense potential that rock art possesses in unraveling the mysteries of the past. Most of their views expressed by the scholars are appropriate and hold good promise in terms of recent trends in rock art research. This beautifully illustrated volumes aim to boost and promote rock art research. It will certainly contribute to rectify and enhance our vision of rock art.

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