

Pre Historic Art

30,000 – 2000 BCE

(Stone Age)

Terminology

- BC = Before Christ
- BCE = Before Christian Era
or Before Common Era
 - BC = BCE
 - (But BCE is more politically correct to some folks.)
- AD = Does **NOT** mean “After Death.”
Anno Domini (The year of our Lord)

What does Prehistoric mean?

Pre means **Before** and Historic means **Written Record**

So prehistoric refers to the

“time period before the written record or before the written language.”

or

“The period before the invention of writing system is called prehistoric.”

- ❖ Writing emerged at different times in different parts of the world. The earliest writing is found in ancient Mesopotamia, c. 3200 B.C.E

Introduction of Prehistoric Art

Prehistoric art belongs to the **Stone Age** when stone implements were widely used.

Prehistoric Art is divided into three periods:

- Paleolithic - Old Stone Age
- Mesolithic - Middle Stone Age
- Neolithic – New Stone Age

Who were Homo sapiens?



Types of Prehistoric Art

There are several forms of prehistoric artifacts and art work.

These are:

- Petroglyphs - (cupules, rock carving and engraving)
- Pictographs - (cave paintings and drawing)
- Prehistoric Sculpture - (ivory carving and relief sculpture)
- Megalithic Art - (means structures made of such large stones, put together without the use of mortar or cement)

- Paleolithic Period: (25,000 until around 10,000 BCE)

During this period people started to settle near river and lakes where they started the first pictorial manifestations in their surroundings. They were still nomadic they were moved from place to place.

- Mesolithic Period: (12,000 – 7000 BCE)

During this period people learned to hunt in groups and to fish, and began to learn how to domesticate animals and plants. It was a period of climatic instability.

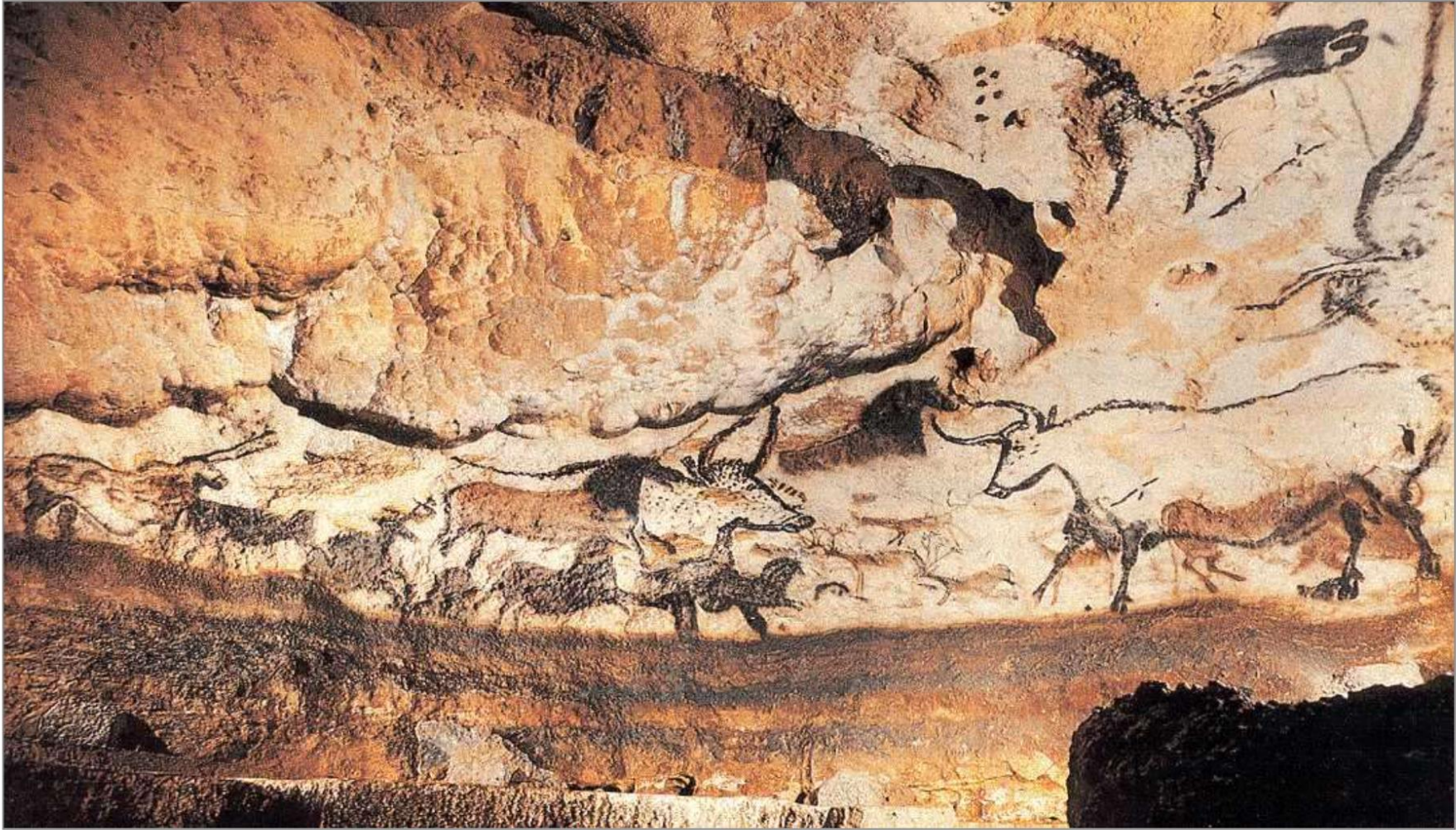
- Neolithic Period:

Human were settling themselves down into agrarian societies. It was the time of climatic stability and people begin to construct permanent villages.

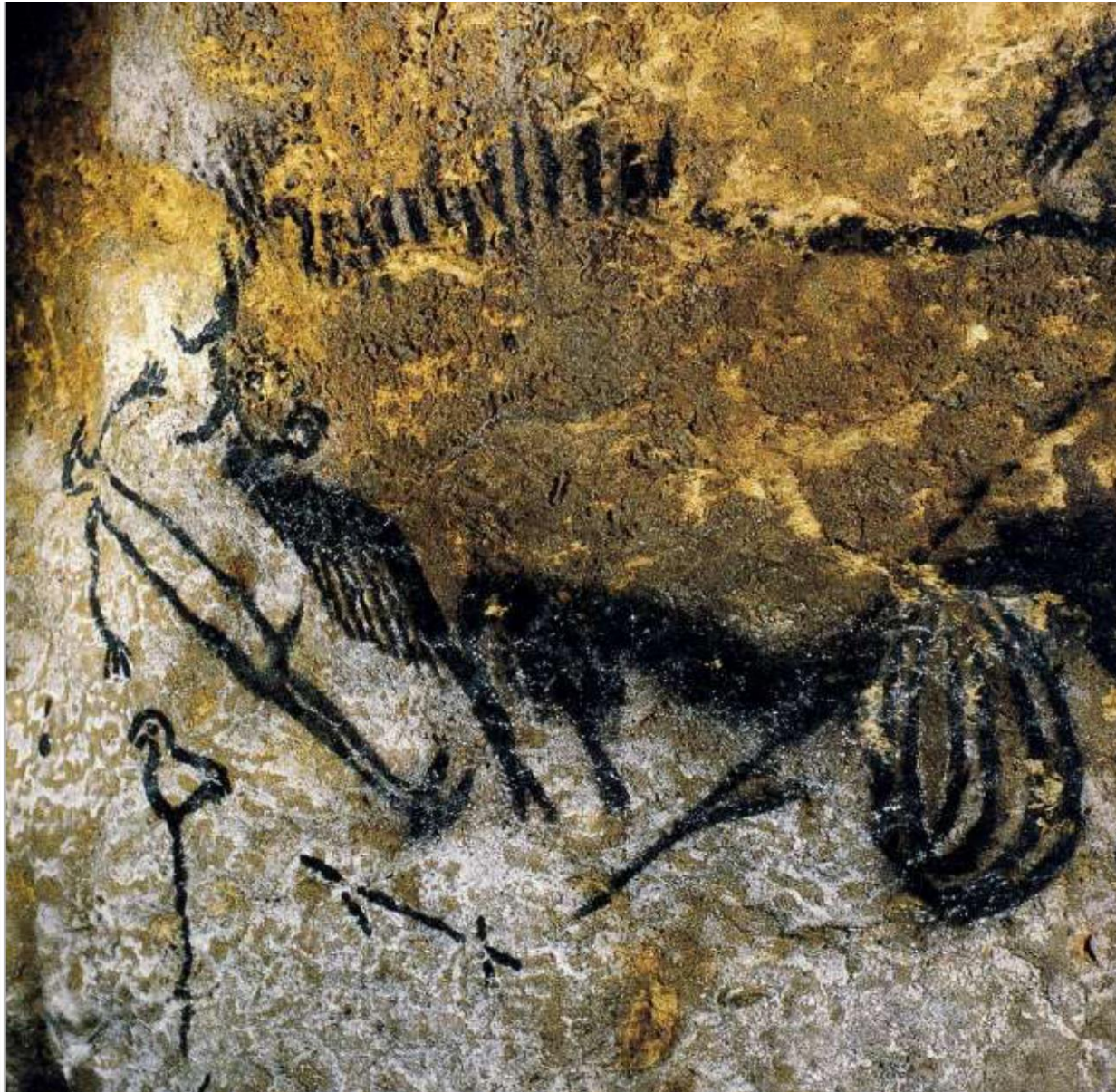
Prehistoric Cave Paintings

- Lascaux Caves, France (15,000-13,000 BCE)
- Around 15,000 B.C., ancient hunters drew and painted important life events on cave walls. These are now called the Lascaux Cave Paintings and are found in France.

In 1940, a group of Young boys discovered the caves by accident. They had been untouched until then. The Pictures in the caves tell us a lot about the lives of our Prehistoric ancestors.



Hall of the Bulls (Lascaux), c. 15,000-13,000 BCE



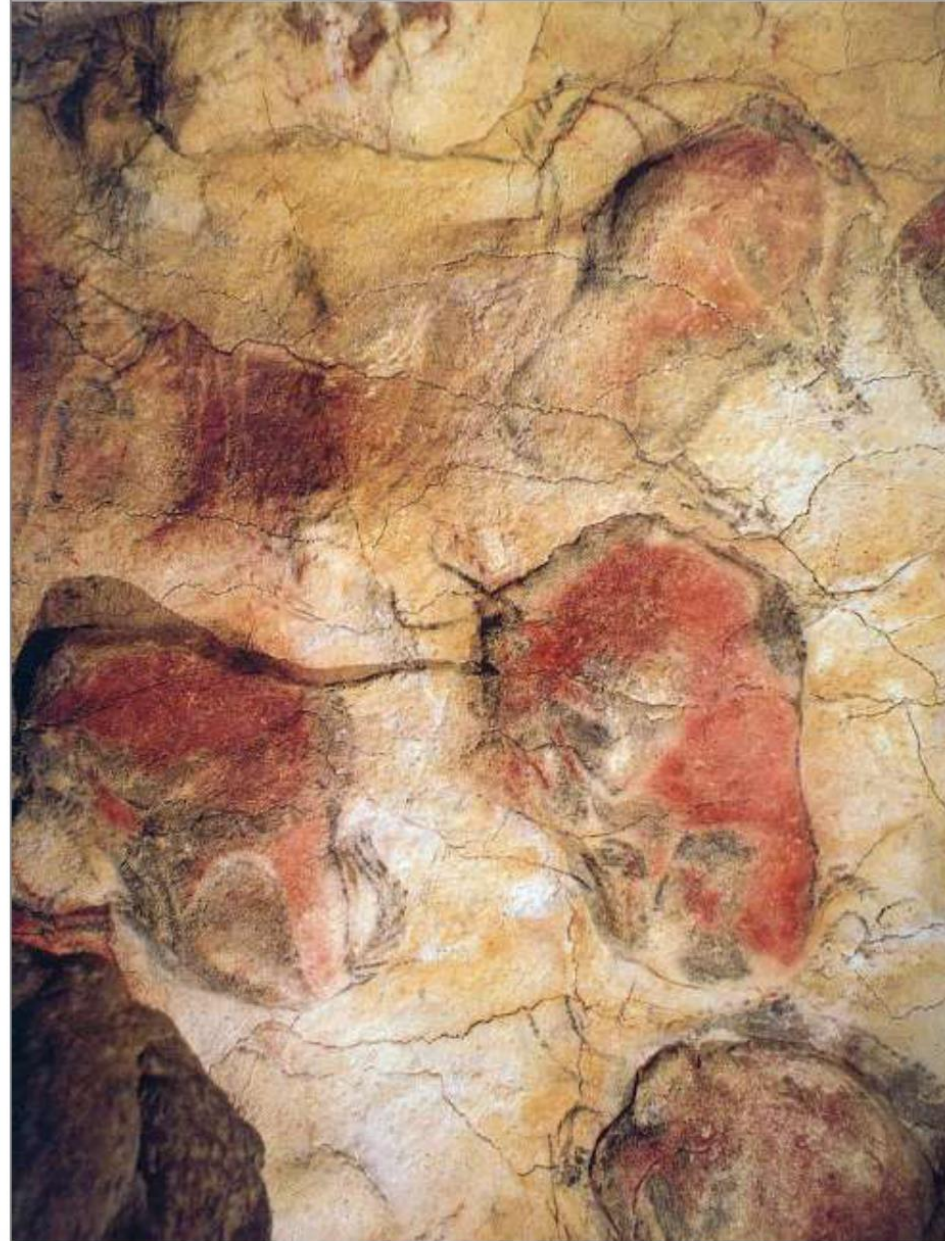
**Wounded man
and
disemboweled
bison
(Lascaux),
c.15,000 -
13,000 BCE**

**RELIGIOUS
RITUAL**



HUNTING MAGIC

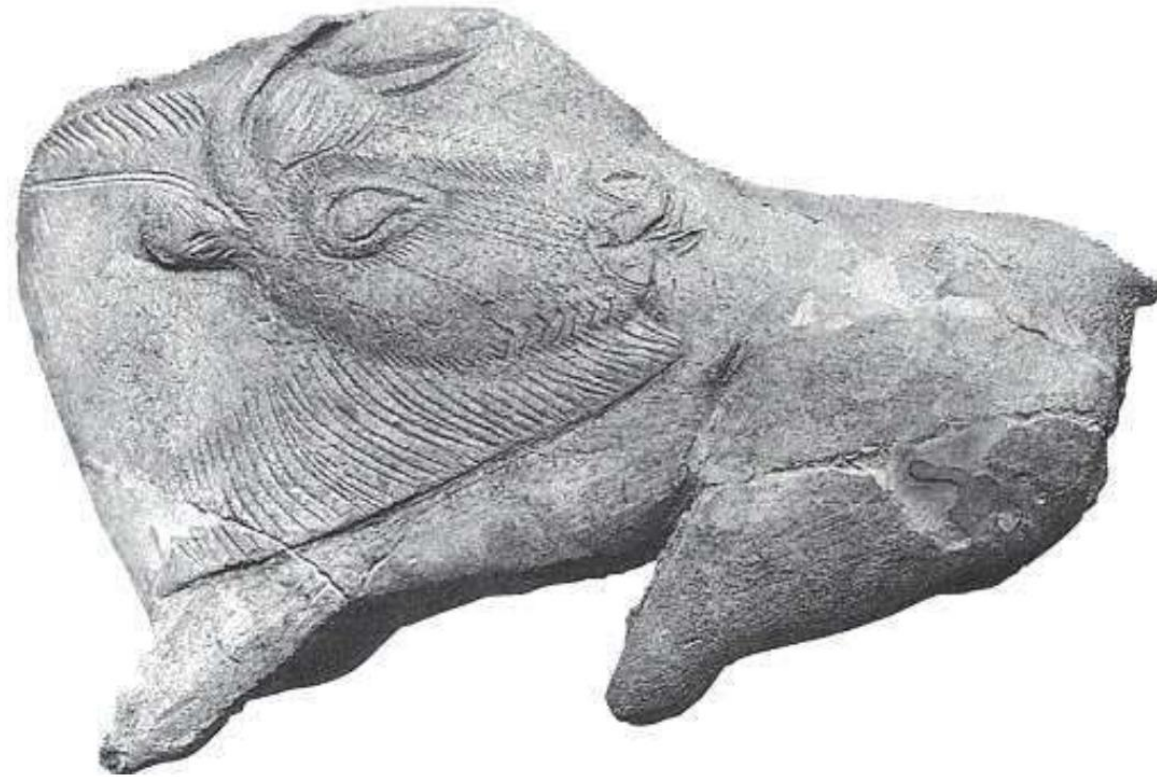
**Bison at Altamira
(Santander, Spain),
c. 12,000-11,000 BCE**



Material for Cave Painting

- Primitive “paint” (ground minerals)
- Feathers
- Moss
- Fur
- Chewed sticks
- Finger painting
- “spray Paint”

Prehistoric Sculpture



Bison with turned head (La Madeleine),
c. 12,000 BCE, reindeer horn



Venus of Willendorf
(Austria), c. 28,000-
23,000 BCE, limestone

cult of the fertility
goddess/ lack of
naturalistic rendering

Prehistoric Tools



Ovate hand axe.
98mm x 76mm



Pointed handaxe.
107mm x 74 mm.



Ovate hand
122x76mm.



Tranchet adze.
151mm x 48mm



Blade.
76mm x 30mm



microlith - used to make arrow heads,
spears, and other weapons and tools

Prehistoric Architecture



Stonehenge (Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England),
c. 2000 BCE

