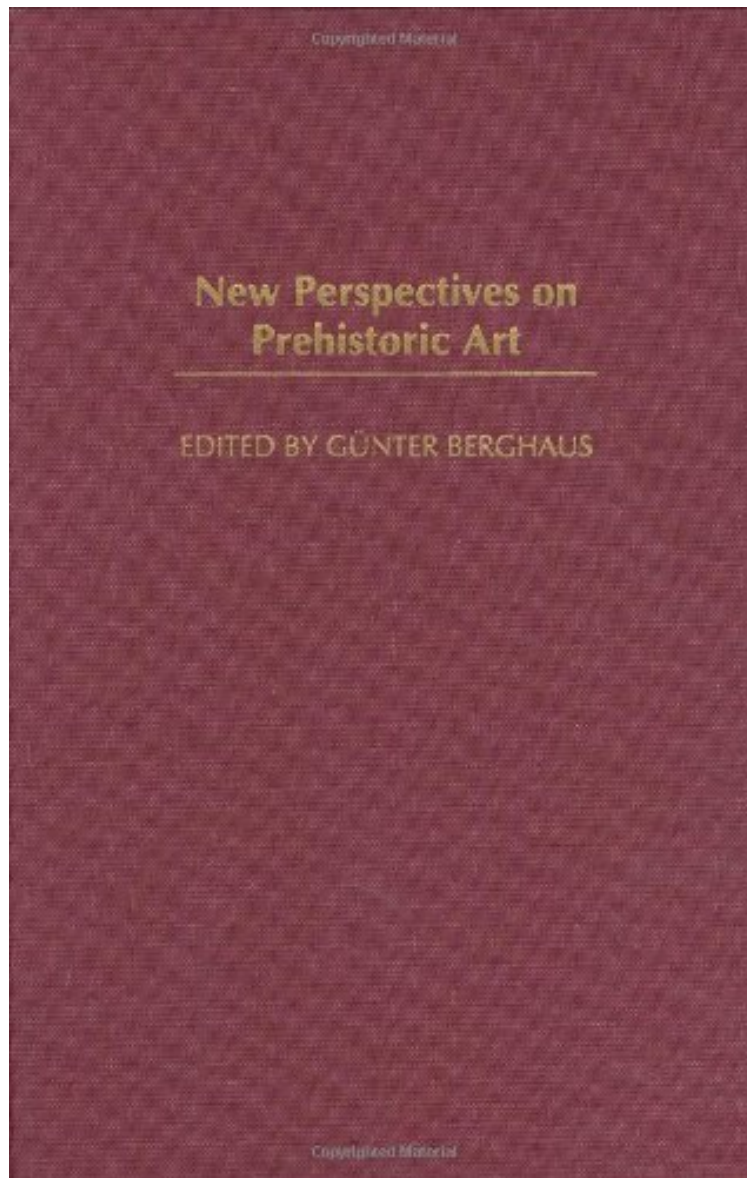


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New Perspectives on Prehistoric Art

Gunter Berghaus

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Gunter Berghaus : New Perspectives on Prehistoric Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Perspectives on Prehistoric Art:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Groundbreaking research By Toke L. Knudsen An excellent volume full of groundbreaking research. Especially valuable is the contribution of Dr. Y. Montelle on paleoperformance. This seems to be a model that will be used in the future in a variety of fields.

Following the discovery of Franco-Caribbean cave art in the nineteenth century, standard interpretations of these works usually revolved around hunting, magic, and fertility cults. Orthodox positions such as these have weighed heavily on later generations of art historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists, even those whose views dissented from those of their predecessors. In the last few decades, however, new approaches to cave art, often based on discoveries made in Africa, Asia, Australia, North America, and the Arctic region, have produced new insights into possible meanings and functions of prehistoric paintings and sculptures. This new collection of essays explores these insights, gathering the observations of eight experts from a variety of disciplines, and examining some of the social and spiritual functions of a variety of artistic genres ranging from 40,000 B.C. to 5,000 B.C. These insights, which derive from evolutionary biology, feminist scholarship, ritual studies, and new modes of anthropology, argue collectively that prehistoric art was a culture-specific form of communication that should be interpreted in the social context of early hunter-gatherer societies and should not be measured with the criteria and paradigms of modern art. Essential reading for anyone interested in prehistoric art or its cultural implications, this volume represents a bold step forward in the research and analysis of the very first artists.

"Extraordinary bibliography, excellent index, and helpful line drawings. Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals."-Choice
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About the Author
GÜNTER BERGHAUS is a Reader in Theatre History and Performance Studies at the Drama Department, University of Bristol. He has published extensively on theatre anthropology, ritual studies, avant-garde performance, and Renaissance and Baroque theatre. He has served as principal organizer of several international conferences and has held research awards from the Polish Academy of Sciences, the German Research Foundation, the Italian Ministry of Culture, the British Academy, and the Brazilian Ministry of Education.