ATELIER EDITIONS

COMING OUT VOLUMES
IN THE SERIES “COLLOQUI”

ART AND RELIGION, colloqui IX
MALE AND FEMALE, colloqui X
WHY ART?, colloqui XI
MEANING OF ABSTRACT SIGN, colloqui XII
COLONIZATION, colloqui XIII
SEXUAL IMAGES IN PREHISTORY AND TRIBAL ART, colloqui XIV

Summer 2017
What is the role of religion, magic and witchcraft in prehistoric and tribal art? The intellectual and spiritual motivations of art produced various theories since the first attempts to explain prehistoric art over a century ago. Recent research is revealing more complex conceptual connections. In this book, authors of different backgrounds and countries, from four continents, are presenting examples of specific aspects, providing first-hand data. The confrontation of different ideas and methods is contributing to reconsider some past simplifications and generalizations.
The book includes papers of 20 authors from five continents. It considers human representations in prehistoric and tribal art presenting a broad landscape of different views and cases. In each age and culture a specific choice is emerging in the visual arts, between preferring male or female images, and between having or not the human figure as the main concern. The book presents different cases and views from experts of five continents.

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The volume presents a search of contents by scholars from different continents with different experiences. Prehistoric art is like the literature of more recent times, some depictions may concern science, others religion, some may be school textbooks and others fiction. The decoding of prehistoric art helps to approach the understanding of contents and motivations.

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From an original land of origins, likely to have been in Africa, the ancestors of humankind colonized all corners of the globe. Other primates still survive in their limited habitat; humans live in the equatorial regions as well as near the Arctic pole. How did such colonization take place? Authors from five continents replied to this question: a selection of their papers appears in this volume.

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Atelier is a workshop for research, experiment and debates on the intellectual and spiritual expressions of cultures. It is a meeting place for the arts and sciences, where artists, philosophers, anthropologists, semioticians, psychologists and students of other disciplines can find a common language. Atelier organizes meetings, seminars and exhibitions, and has a publishing department, a space for exhibitions, and a laboratory-meeting place in Valcamonica in the Italian Alps. It is open to all those wishing to participate and share their knowledge and ideas.

atelier.etno@gmail.com
www.atelier-etno.it
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