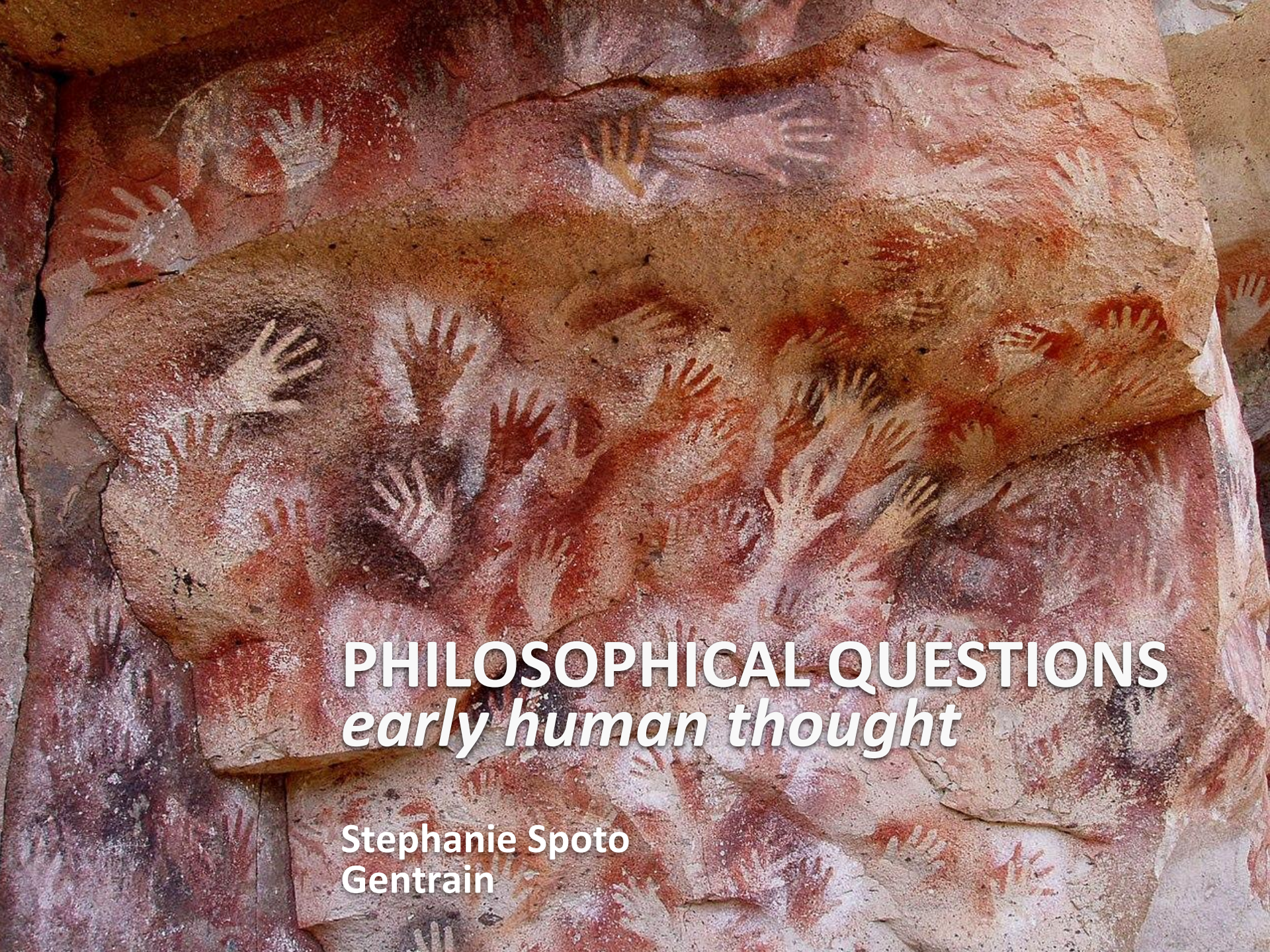


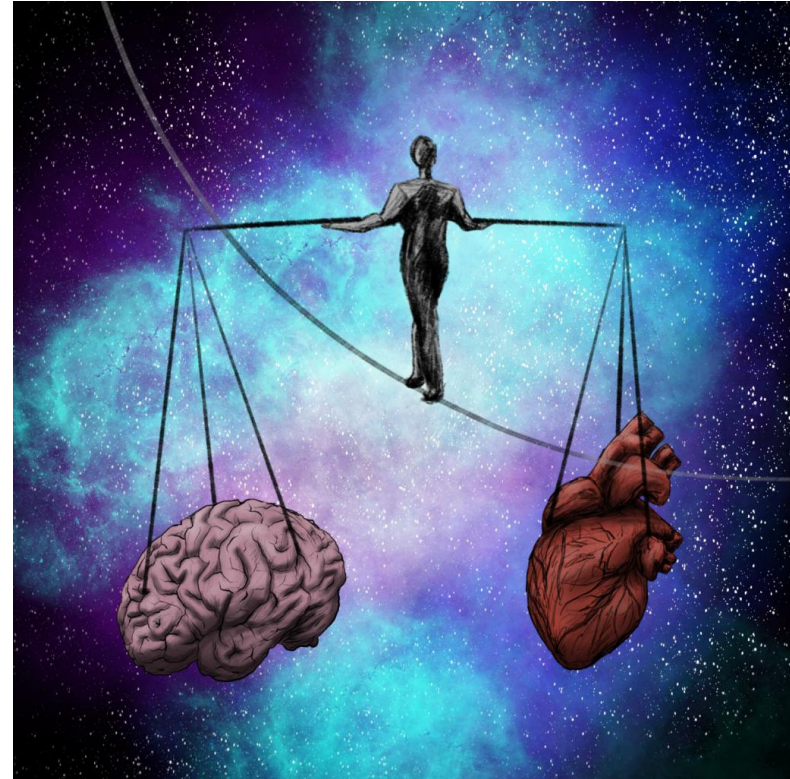


PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS *early human thought*

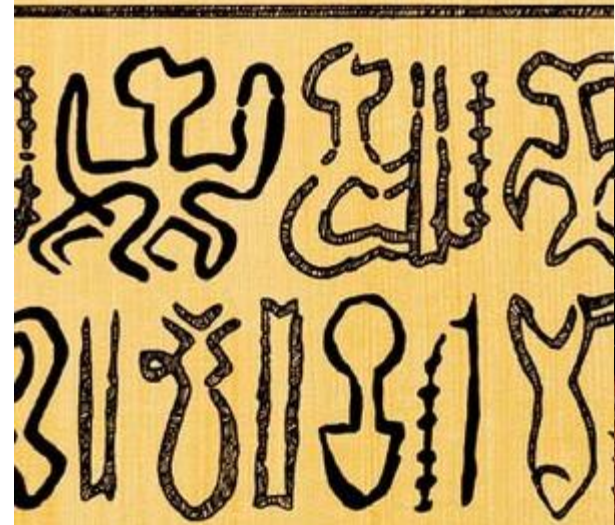
Stephanie Spoto
Gentrain

What do we do when we do philosophy?

- Philosophy is an activity ☐ when we seek out fundamental truths and understandings about self, others, the world, and the relationship between these things.
- Asking life's most basic questions:
 - ☐ Why are we here?
 - ☐ What happens after we die?
 - ☐ Is there a God?
 - ☐ What is the best way to life?
 - ☐ How should we treat other people?
 - ☐ What do I know? How do I know it?
 - ☐ What is a human being?



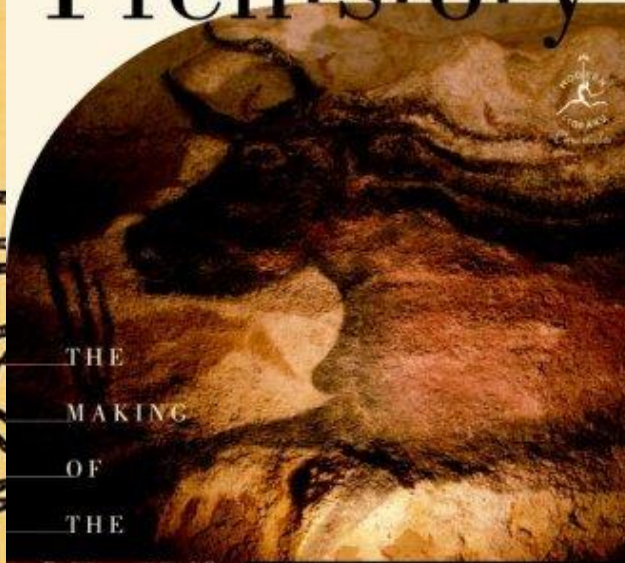
PAUL RADIN
Primitive Man
as Philosopher



Prehistory

THE
MAKING
OF
THE
HUMAN
MIND

COLIN RENFREW

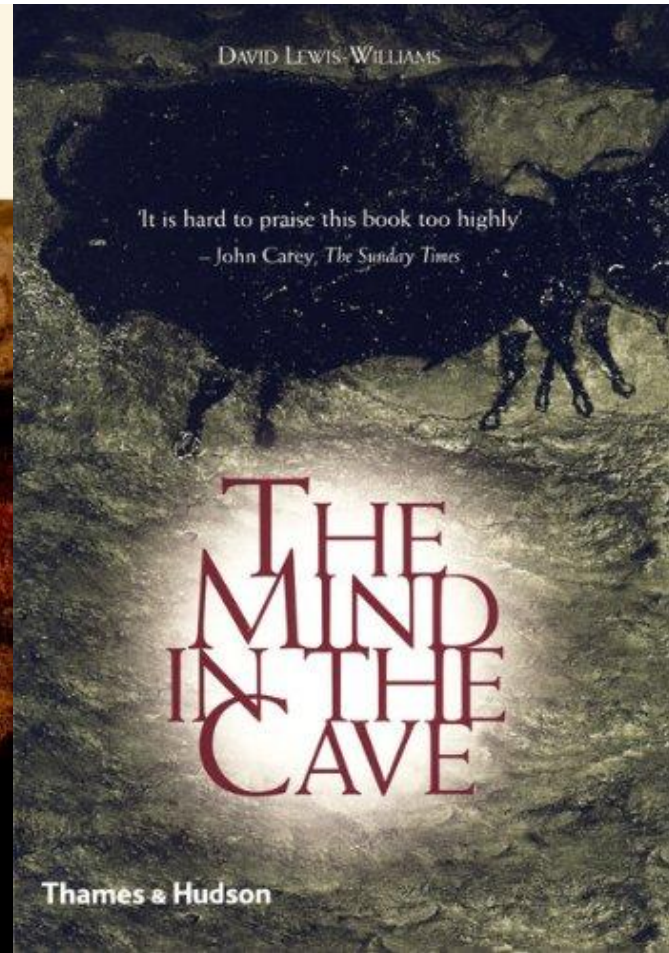


DAVID LEWIS WILLIAMS

'It is hard to praise this book too highly'
— John Carey, *The Sunday Times*

THE MIND IN THE CAVE

Thames & Hudson



Philosophy and the pre-modern mind

Philosophical questions

1. Who tells the stories of pre-modern hunter-gatherers?
2. What is at stake in these narratives?
3. How do we interact with perspectives which challenge our own?
4. What assumptions about pre-modern peoples are we bringing into our investigation?
5. How do we see this impacting life in the twenty-first century?

Philosopher through the ages



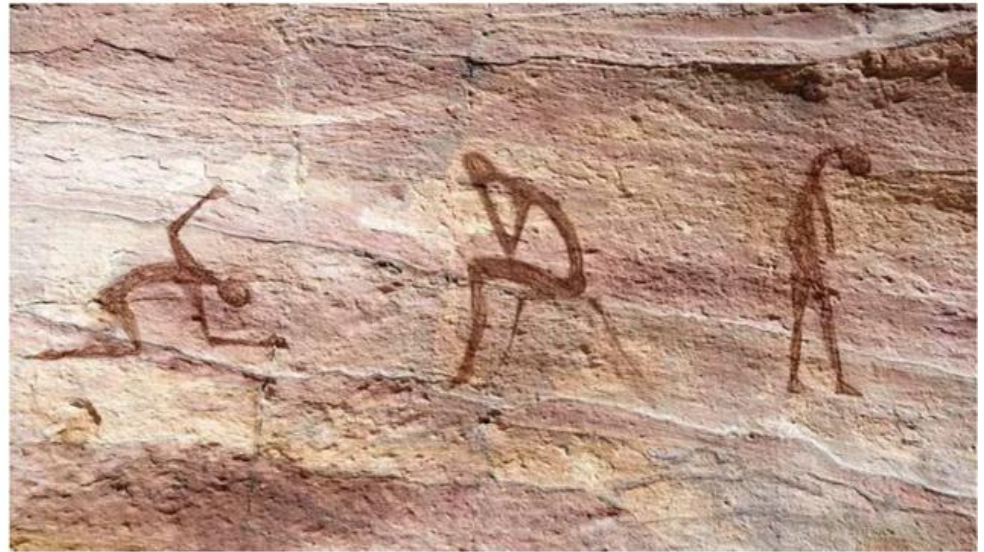
Towards a pre-historical philosophy

- What happens when we die?
- The structure of the natural world
- Methods concerning truth and falsehood
- Nature of right and wrong

NEWS

Newly Discovered Cave Paintings Suggest Early Man Was Battling A Lot Of Inner Demons

4/17/14 9:49am • SEE MORE: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ▾



The paintings indicate that early humans had “some pretty heavy stuff” weighing on their minds, archaeologists said.

CANTABRIA, SPAIN—An archaeological team from the University of Cambridge announced Wednesday the discovery of cave paintings in

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Transformations

From hunter-gatherer to agrarian

Paleolithic Period

- Hunter-gatherers are more highly conscious of a spiritual dimension in their daily lives.
- The divine was a stable backdrop to ordinary activity – nothing was profane.
- Early philosophies encouraged people to see that objects in reality embodied *something else* – the very otherness of the object made it holy
- Felt totally a part of the natural world
- Used myths to come to terms with death and to guide behavior
- Animals not inferior, but had superior knowledge that the shaman could access through ritual and trance.

Neolithic Period

- The beginnings of agrarian ways of knowing
- Humans began to see themselves as molders and shapers of the natural world
- Changing relationship to animals: no longer with superior access to the divine, but utilitarian
- Settled communities developed social hierarchies which required more rigid political philosophies to address and explain power differences
- Changing spiritual orientation focused on the earth and the seasons



Cave Paintings and Hands

- Experiments with identity and individuality
- Recognition of longevity – that one day we will die but there is a world that continues
- A desire to be remembered
- Magical or spiritual significance
- Relation of spiritual self to physical world



Red Hands Cave, Australia
c. 1000 BCE



Sulawesi Caves (c.37,900 BCE) Indonesia



Sulawesi Caves (c.37,900 BCE) Indonesia



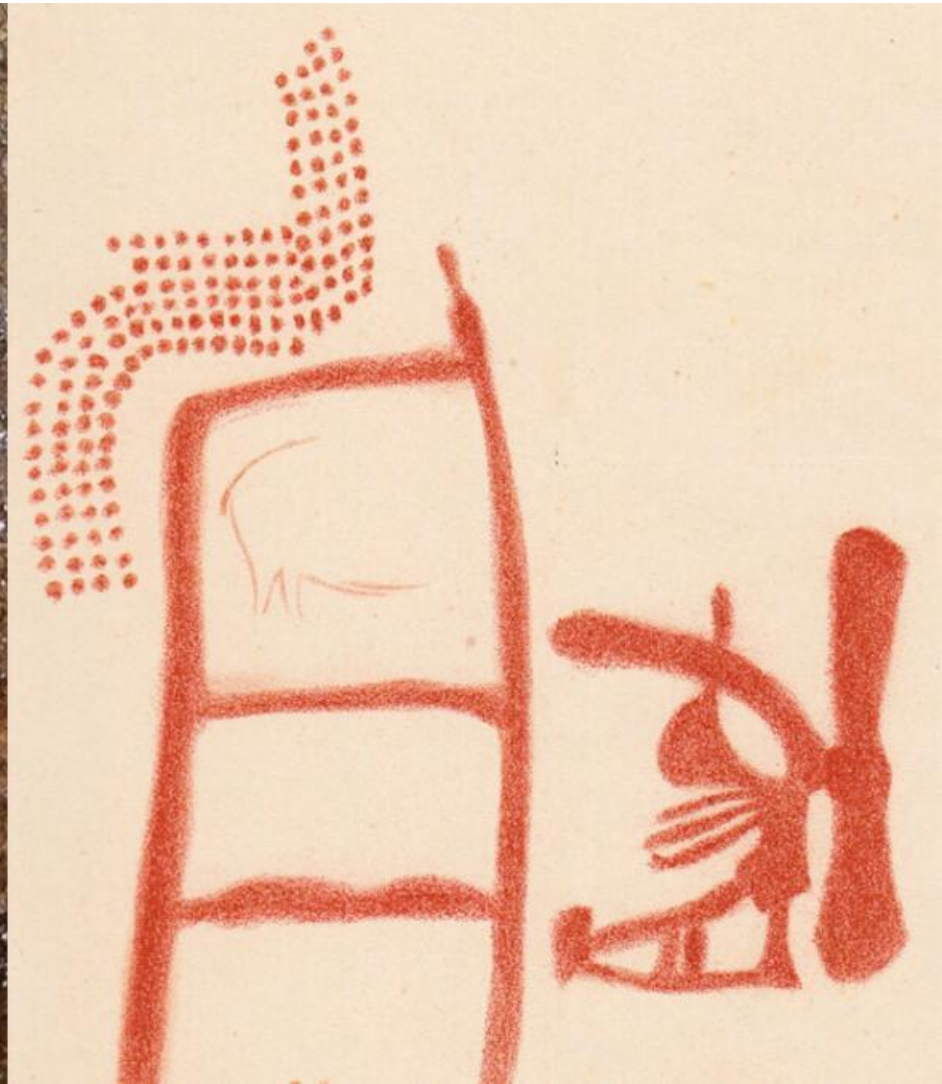
El Castillo Cave (c.37,300 BCE) Spain



Lascaux (c.17,000-13,000 BCE) France

What makes homo sapiens special?

Pictured: Neanderthal cave arts

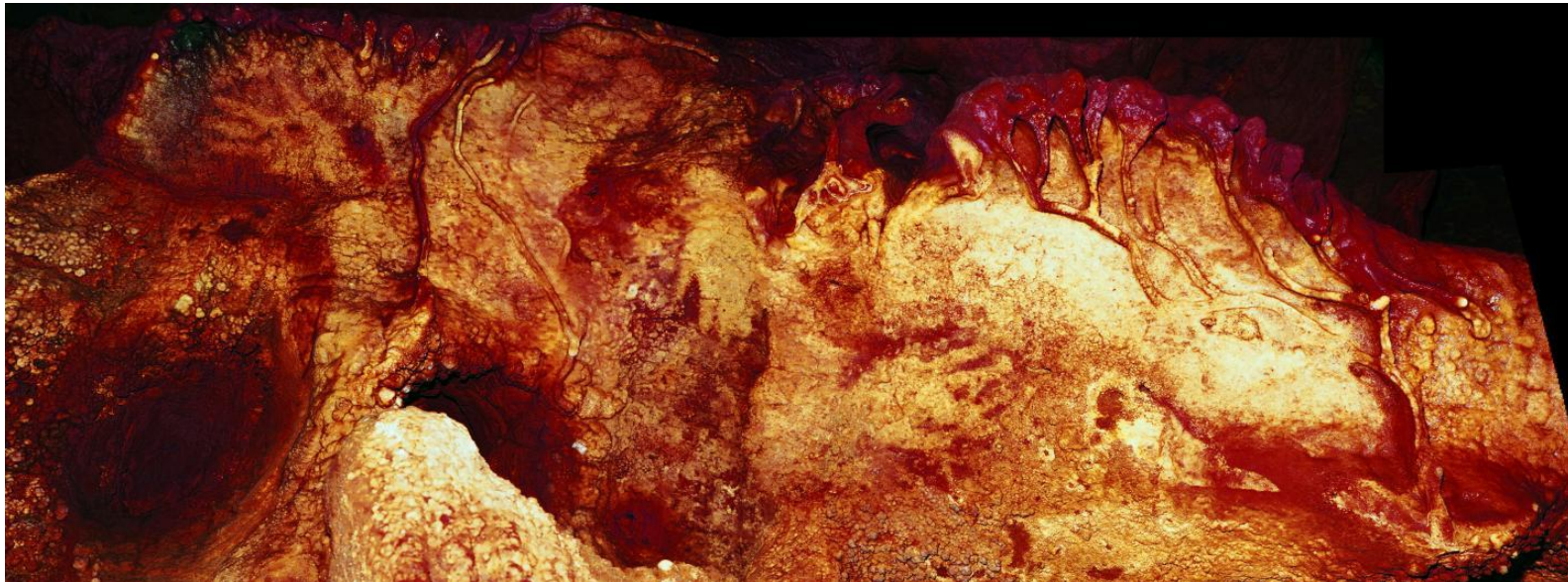


Neanderthal hand prints



40,000 BCE
El Castillo cave
in Northern
Spain

Maltravieso Cave
64,000 BCE



Ancient Women Artists May Be Responsible for Most Cave Art

Previously, most researchers assumed that the people behind these mysterious artworks must have been men, but they were wrong

ARCHAEOLOGY

Were the first artists of prehistoric times women?

16 March 2021

Women did most prehistoric cave paintings: Religion, or just lazy men?

Methodology

- **Artifacts** → cave paintings, art, sculpture, tools, burial remains
- **Early myths** → early written myths could be from much older oral tradition
- **Modern-day hunter gatherers** → how do hunter-gatherers live today? How do engage in philosophical thought?

Our use of these methods (and our interpretation of prehistoric people) perhaps reveals more about ourselves than it does about them