

## **Two centres of Paleolithic art in Ukraine: the mammoth bone objects**

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The most ancient examples of art in the Ukraine are associated with the Upper Paleolithic and are up to 25,000 years old (Molodova V, level 8). Two groups of sites where Upper Palaeolithic art is present are known in the Middle Dnestr (Molodova 1 and 5, Korman IV, Ataky ) and the Middle Dnepr (Mezin, Dobranichevka, Mezhirich and Kirillovskaya) regions. Practically all types of arts (painting, graphic arts, figurines) are present at the group of sites in the Middle Dniepr region. The most striking examples are known from Mezin (20,000 years old), where unusual forms of female figurines, treasures, sets of mammoth bones painted by red ochre have been found. A similar collection of art is known from Mezirich (graphic paintings, figurines,

treasures, paintings of red ochre). At other sites such as Dobranichevka, Pushkari and Kirillovskaya some isolated figurines made from mammoth ivory (Dobranichevka), graphic paintings (Kirilovskaya), treasures (Pushkari) have been found.

The Middle Dnestr sites have poorer examples of art. More common at these sites are tools made of the bones and antlers of reindeer. Objects made of mammoth bone and ivory are rare (the head of a figurine from level 8 Molodova 5, an anthropomorphic depiction on the “bâton de commandement” from level 7 at the same site, etc).

Thus, it is possible to define two centres of Paleolithic art, different in culture, chronology and art expression.