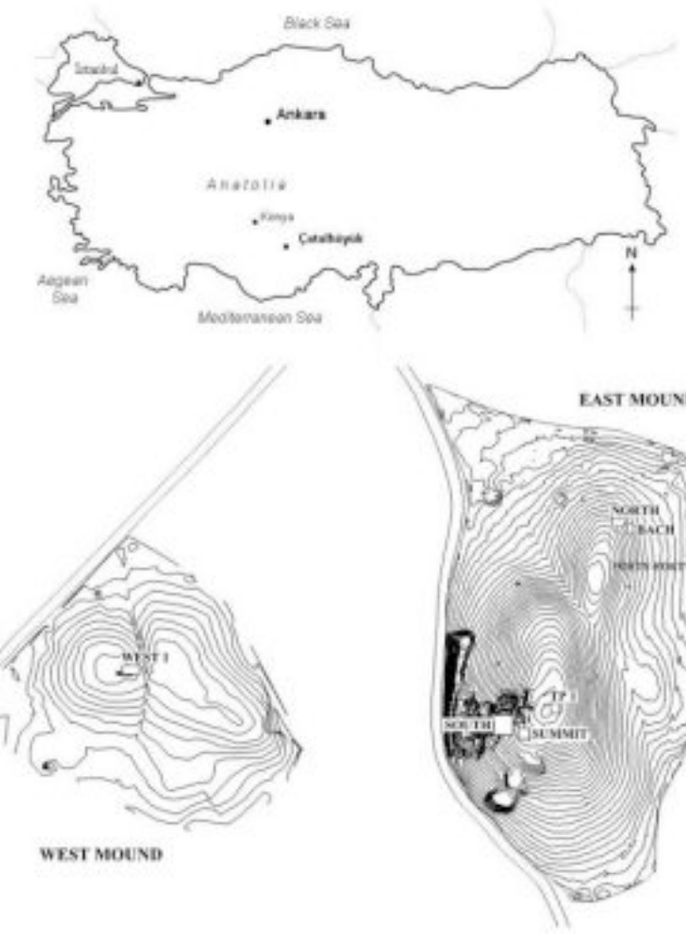
Çatalhöyük: A Neolithic Town



Çatalhöyük



- Two hills form the 37 ha site on the Southern Anatolian plateau.
- The taller eastern mound contains 18 levels of Neolithic occupation between 7400 BC and 6200 BC, including wall paintings, reliefs and other symbolic and artistic features.
- The Western mound reveals cultural practices in the Chalcolithic period from 6200BC- 5200BC
- Evidence of the evolution of social organisation and cultural practices during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods.

Why is Çatalhöyük significant?



• One of the first early agricultural sites developed outside the Near East.
• A large settlement in comparison to many of its contemporary sites in Anatolia and the Near East.
• Contains evidence of significant advancement in the arts (wall painting and sculpture) and in craft traditions (basketry, pottery, wood and lithics) in comparison to other contemporary sites in Anatolia and the Near East.


Bulgaria
Europe
Black Sea
Russia
Georgia
Asia
Istanbul
Armenia
Ankara
T u r k e y
Iran
Konya
Çatalhöyük
Cyprus
Syria
Iraq
Meditterranean Sea

History of the Site

- The Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük lies at the heart of the Konya plain in central Turkey.
- Early farmers occupied the site about 9000 years ago.
- The mound (höyük) covers 13.6 hectares and was home to 5,000 – 10,000 people
- One of the earliest known urban settlements.
- The site was first discovered in the late 1950s by James Mellaart and excavated between 1961 and 1965.
- Since 1993 (until 2018) Professor Ian Hodder and an international team of researchers.



Conflict

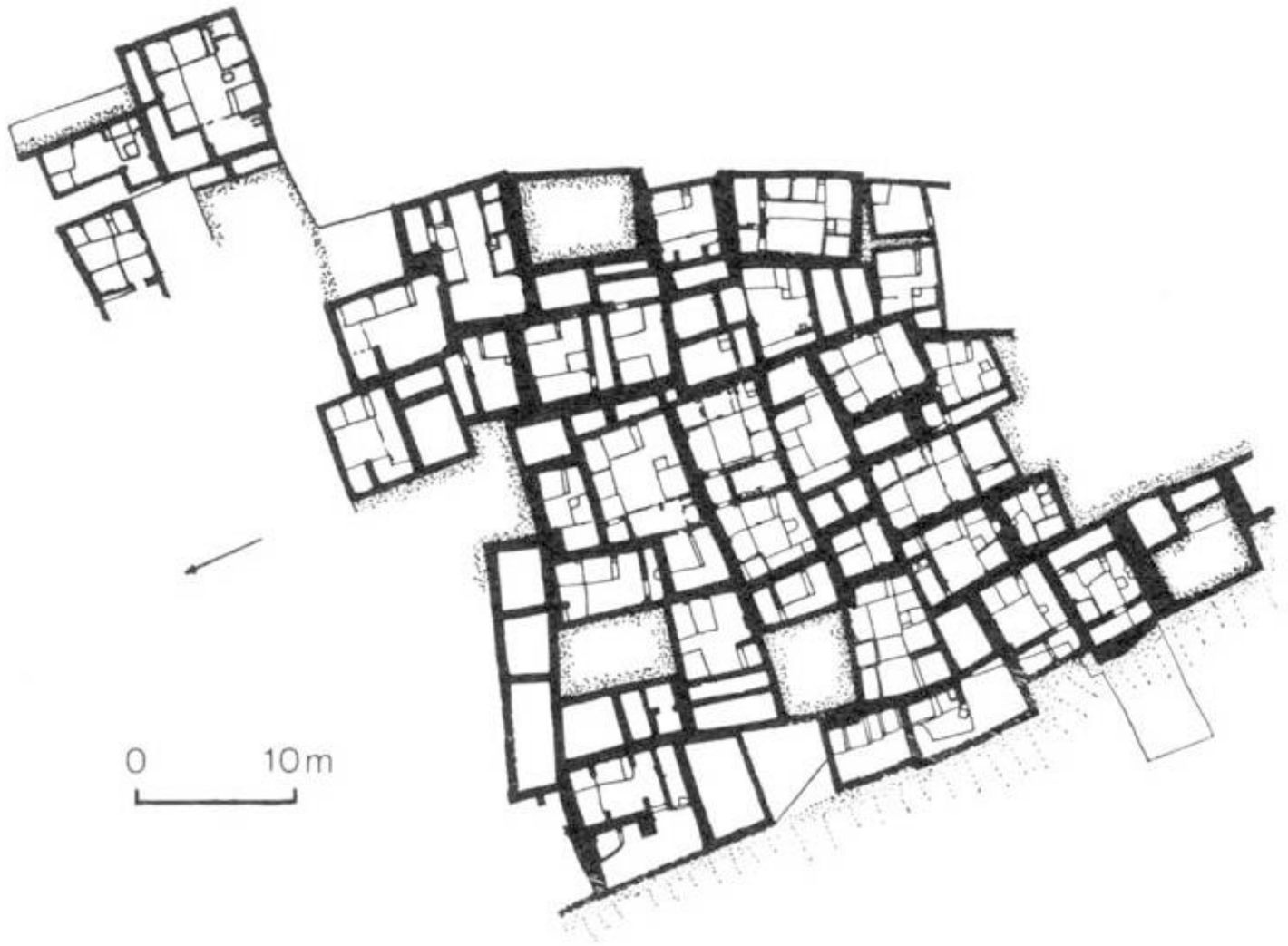


- Archaeological evidence reveals that thousands of people lived at Çatalhöyük over a thousand years
- We anticipate that a bi-product of sendentism is the **increased likelihood of conflict**
- Cessford and Hodder (2004) argue:
  - Centralisation of ranking, ritual, symbolism and public space would help regulate the agglomeration of sedentary settlements

Centralisation of POWER?



- To create and organise towns of this size there would need to be centralisation of power to coordinate the socio-political structures (Byrd 1994; Flannery 1972, 1993; Hole 2000; Wright 1984)



Microartifactual floor patterning indicates that all houses were inhabited, all had access to food stores.





















1999 Çatalhöyük kazı sezonunda ele geçmiştir. Bazılarının, Ankara Anadolu Medeniyetleri Müzesinde sergilendiği ve 1960'lı yıllarda ele geçen duvar bezemelerini benzemektedir. Bu binadan ele geçen tek duvar bezemesidir.







Plaster making



Mud-brick making



Bead-making



Figurine-making



Products of 'worked' matter

- Clay and stone figurine corpus: **Over 1,800** total (Nakamura & Meskell 2009)
- The **female form comprises less than 3%** of the entire corpus (Nakamura & Meskell 2009: 206)





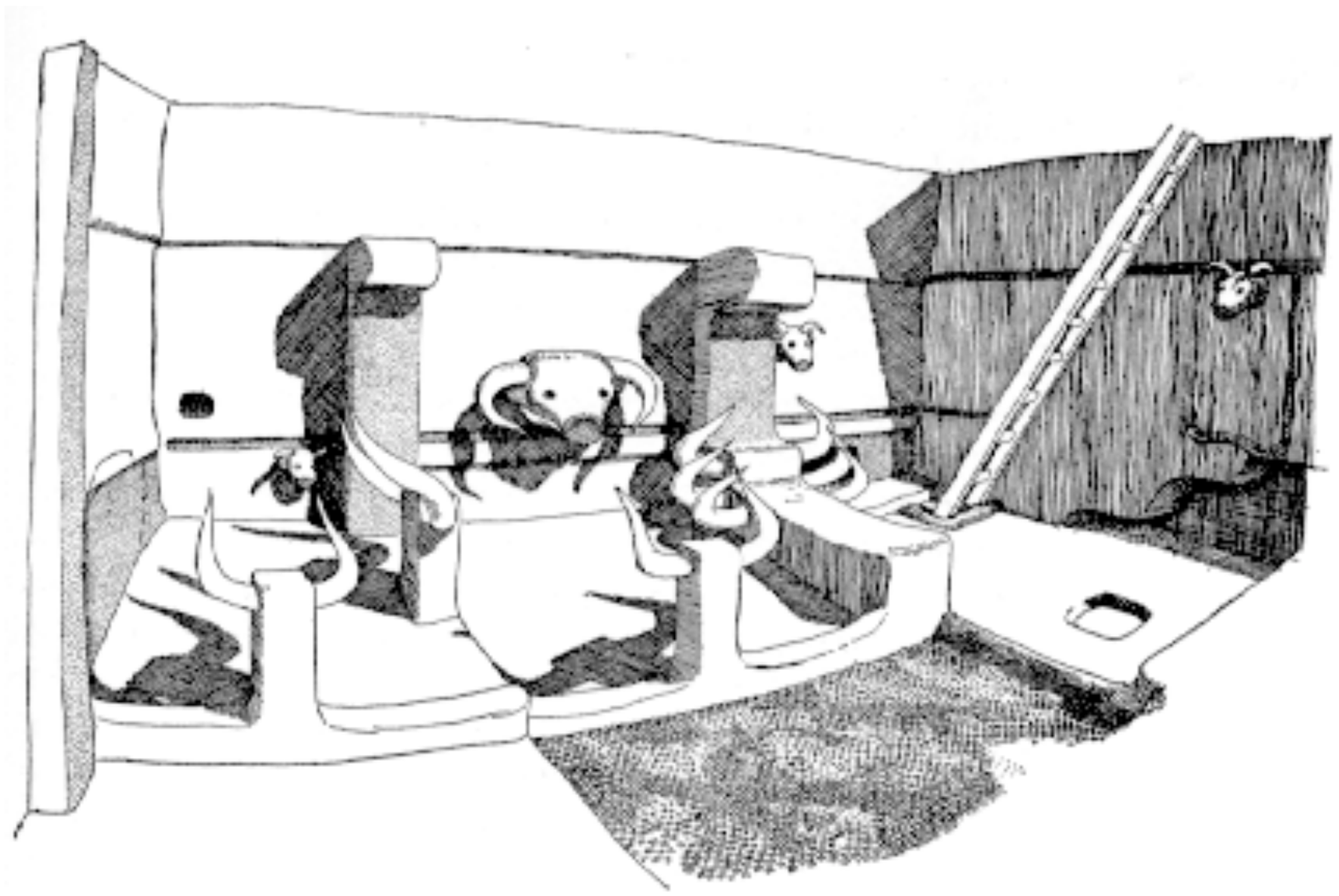




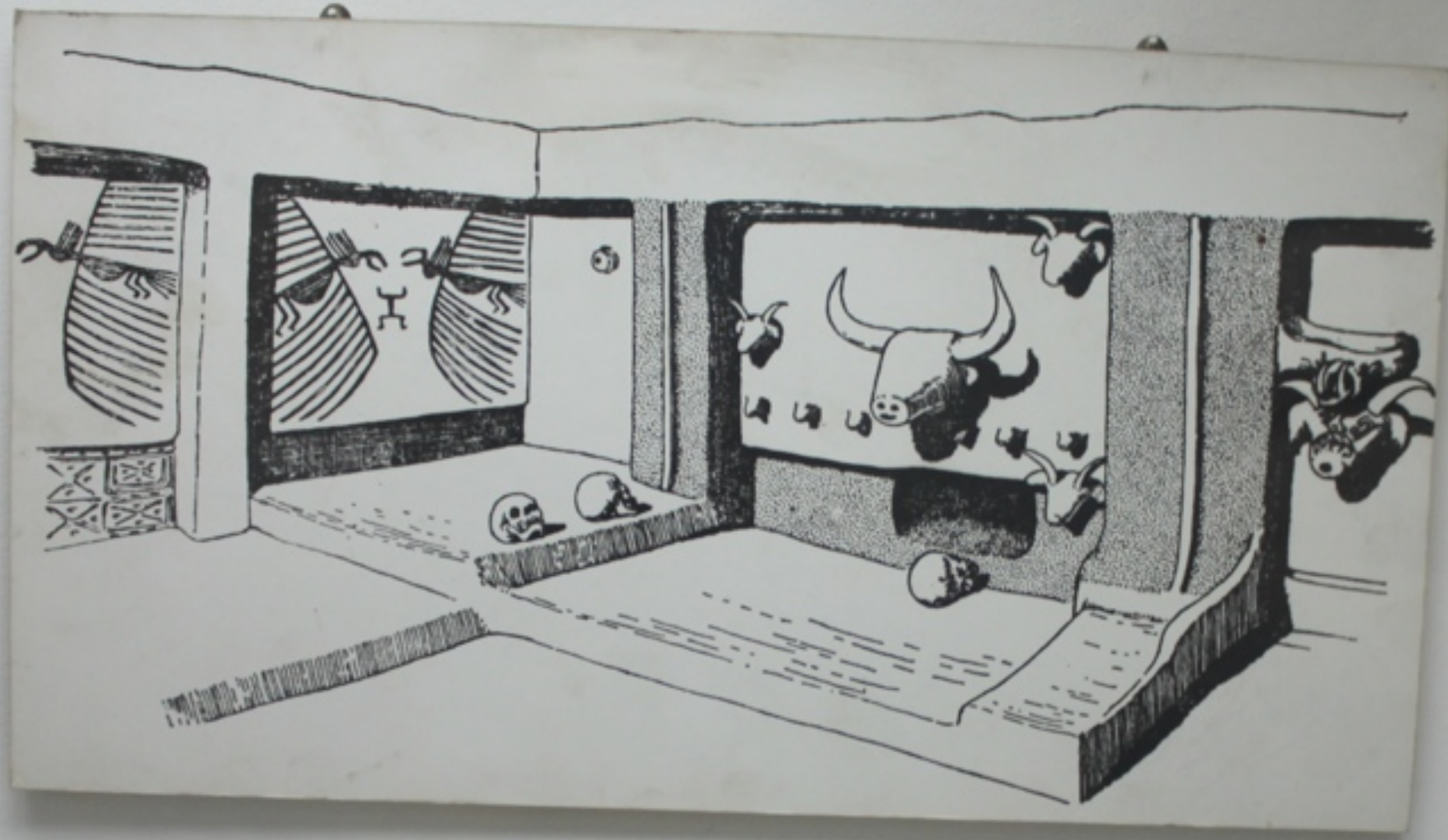








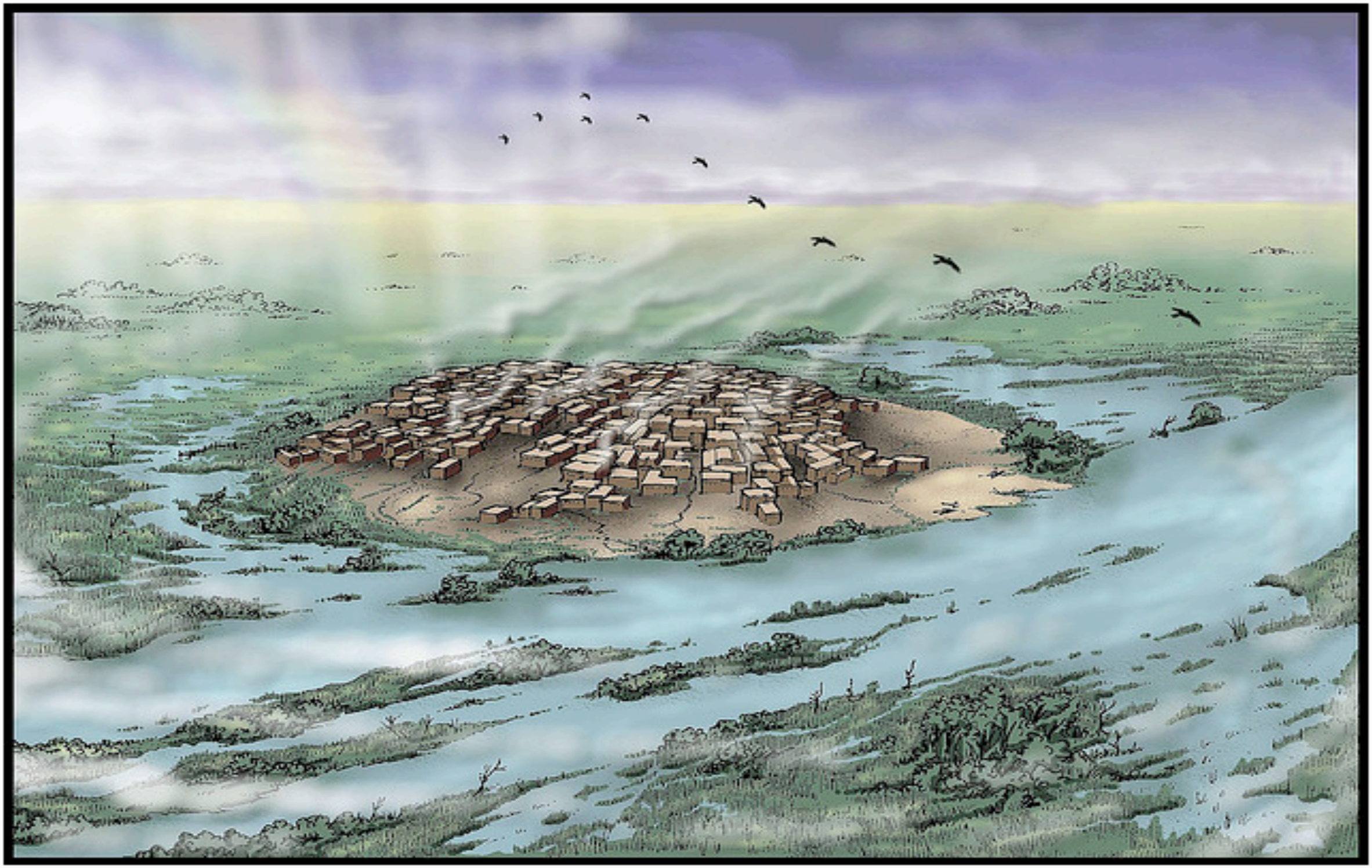




ÇATALHÖYÜK'DEN BİR ODA
VII. KATTAN BİR ODA İLE, VI., VII., VIII. KATLARDAKİ KUTSAL MEKÂNLARIN YENİ KURMA DENEMELERİNDEN ESİNLENEREK YAPILIP YERLEŞTİRİLMİŞTİR. ANA YAPI ÖGELERİNİ VE SIVA ÜZERİNE YAPILMIŞ DUVAR RESİMLERİNDEN BAZI KONULARI YANSITMAKTADIR.

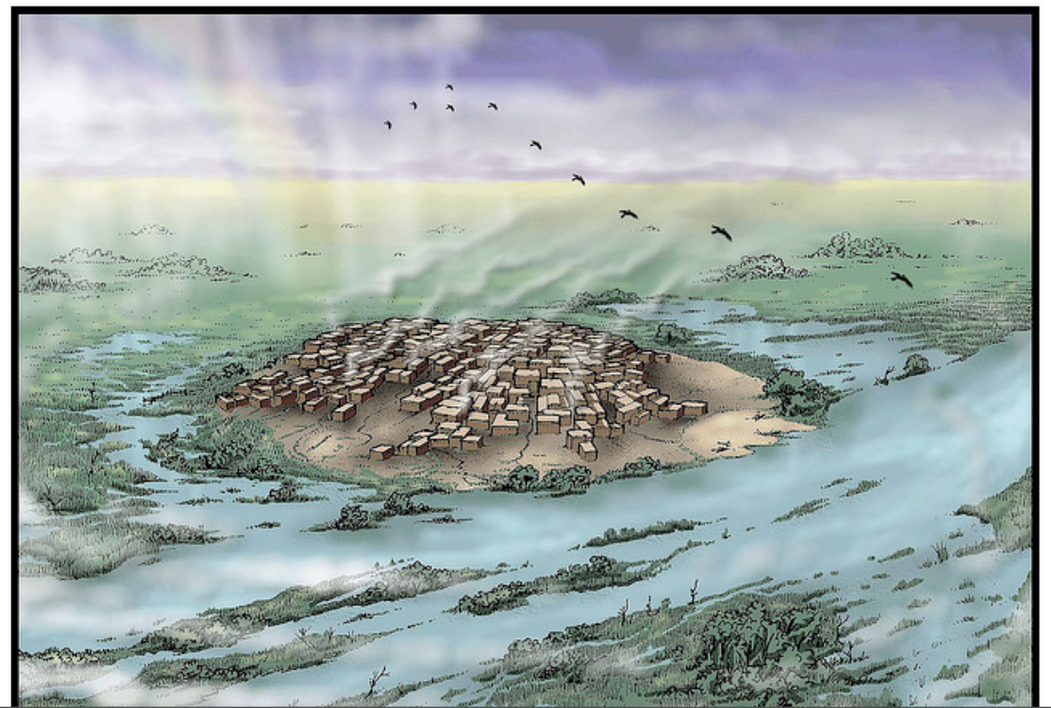
A ROOM IN ÇATALHÖYÜK
MODEL OF A ROOM FROM LEVEL VII. AND SHRINES FROM LEVELS VI, VII, VIII INSPIRED AND ARRANGED TOGETHER AFTER VARIOUS RECONSTRUCTIONS. DISPLAYS MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES AND SOME OF THE PAINTINGS ON THE MUD PLASTERED WALLS.





The Settlement

- Densely packed mudbrick buildings were constructed with access to the interiors via openings in the roofs.
- The interiors were decorated with paintings of hunting scenes and geometric designs.
- Pottery, evidence of textiles, clay figurines and wooden artefacts



What has been excavated to date

- Çatalhöyük was gradually abandoned
- The environmental processes and erosion post-abandonment contribute to the integrity of the site today.
- Over thousands of years the plain surrounding the site rose and buried large portions of Çatalhöyük.
- 166 houses at Çatalhöyük East (5 % of the mound) have been excavated, 18 of which have been fully excavated using modern scientific techniques
- The Çatalhöyük Research Project has excavated or planned approximately 80 buildings at the Neolithic Site of Çatalhöyük.



Why Çatalhöyük has been granted World Heritage status

- The Neolithic sites currently on the World Heritage List are primarily monumental, highlighting the tombs, megalithic structures and ceremonial sites which were increasingly constructed in Northwest Europe around 3000 B.C.

- The construction of monuments and chambered tombs might relect social hierarchies.

- Çatalhöyük is devoid of such monuments

- It is argued that Çatalhöyük was an egalitarian society.

- Çatalhöyük provides us with a **detailed** understanding of all aspects of Neolithic social life.

Key themes for Neolithic

- Sedentism, agglomeration, domestication



What sets Çatalhöyük apart from other neolithic settlements?



- Çatalhöyük: earlier and far larger settlement site
- Provides a unique opportunity to understand:
  - Everyday practice in early settled agricultural life
  - Development of new ideologies
  - Technological, architectural, and artistic innovations.
- Çatalhöyük is of vital importance for understanding the Neolithic way of life spread to Europe
- Some argue that this is the first steps toward ‘civilization.’





Specific themes for Neolithic



- Treatment of dead
- Veneration of ancestors
- Early forms of power in the neolithic are linked to delayed return systems such as:
  - Ancestors
  - Repetitive practices at monuments to the dead
  - Construction of greater temporal depth to activities e.g. construction of lineages



e

Why is Çatalhöyük unique?

- Complex imagery

- Archaeological record shows significant advances in wall painting and sculpture, basketry, pottery, wood, and lithics in comparison to other sites in Eastern Turkey and the Middle East.

- Range of creative practices: figurines, installations of wild animal parts (particularly animal skulls)incorporated into the architecture - “wall features”

- Among the earliest wall paintings and mural art

- Concentration of elaborate symbolism in houses that were used for domestic purposes distinguishes Çatalhöyük from other sites in southeastern Turkey.

Narrative Art



What do you see?

Unique relationships between humans and animals





Çatalhöyük: Humans dominating 'nature'?

- Humans are shown teasing, baiting and dominating oversized bulls and other wild animals

- While human figures do appear in Palaeolithic paintings and in the 'Venus figurines' of France, Spain and elsewhere, these human representations are not shown dominating animals.

- A new form of relationship with other-than-human animals?

- Domestication?

Narrative

- Unique and unprecedented narrative character of the wall paintings (in Anatolia)
- Key period for the development of art and craft traditions
- Researchers have linked creative practices to ritual practices.





Plaster



- All central rooms on site in Ceramic Neolithic levels show replastering of walls, floors and platforms
- Most buildings are used 50 to 100 years before being rebuilt.
- In recent work, Matthews (2004) has used micromorphology to identify up to 700 ‘washes’ and replasterings on one wall, over a period of 70 years.
- Annual replastering made up of foundation and surface coatings occur routinely up to 50 to 100 times (Mellaart 1964: 116-117, 1967: 50)
- Remarkable repetition in plastering practices.

Plaster



- Platform and burial locations are constant
- Buildings are constantly plastered
- Ovens and hearths are usually in the south part of buildings, with art and burials to the north.
- The ladder is usually near the oven - natural smoke vent?
- Major bucania are usually placed on west walls.
- Obsidian caches always occur near hearths and ovens
- Pottery is never placed in graves
- The burial platforms use different types of plaster and are whiter than other platforms and floor areas.



Burials: Living with the Dead

- At Çatalhöyük, human burials were placed underneath sleeping platforms inside houses.
- Burial pits in platforms were used again and again.
- After a burial was placed in a pit, the pit was filled with clay and the opening sealed with plaster, then the platform was coated with a fresh layer of plaster.
- Sometimes the pit was opened, cleared of earth, the bones of the previous burial pushed aside to make space, and the new burial, tightly wrapped in cloth or reed matting was placed in the pit and resealed.
- Most adults were buried without any grave goods.
- Babies and children buried with beads made of stone, shell or coral.



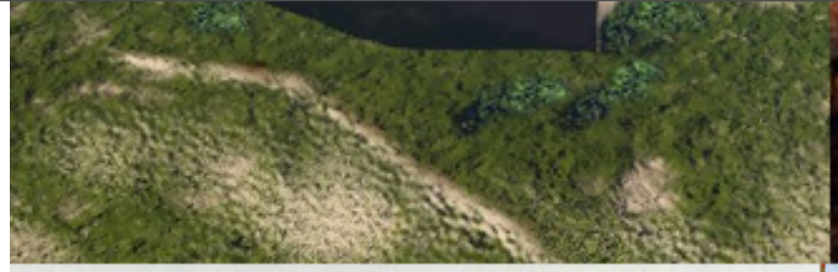
Burials















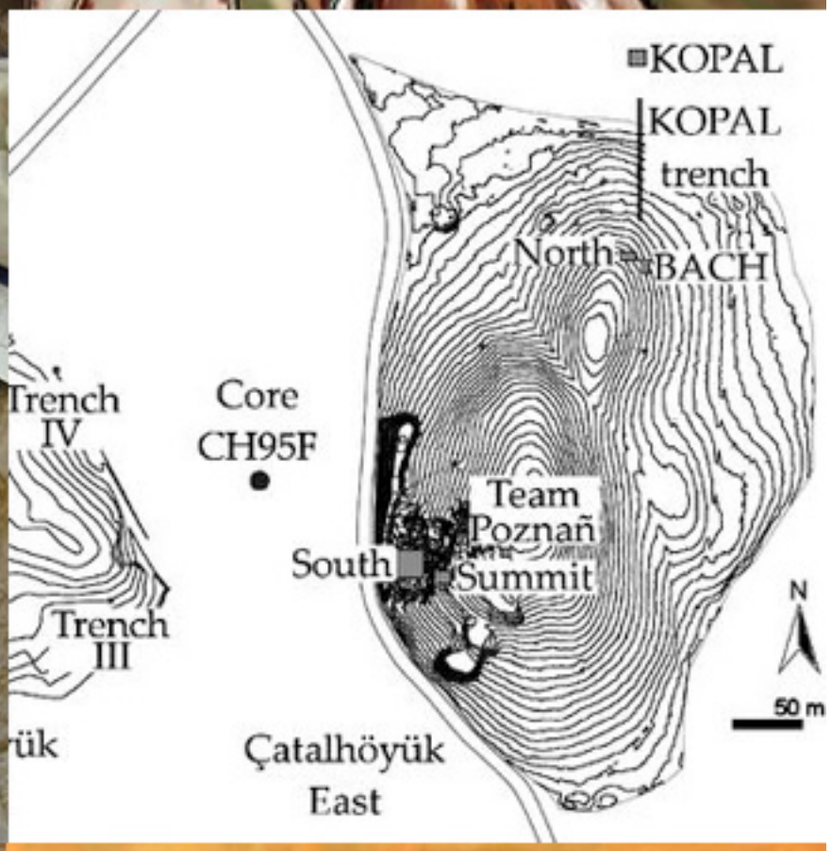
CH.02 BACH

8570X2

Obsidian













Plastered Skull



The Plastered Skull

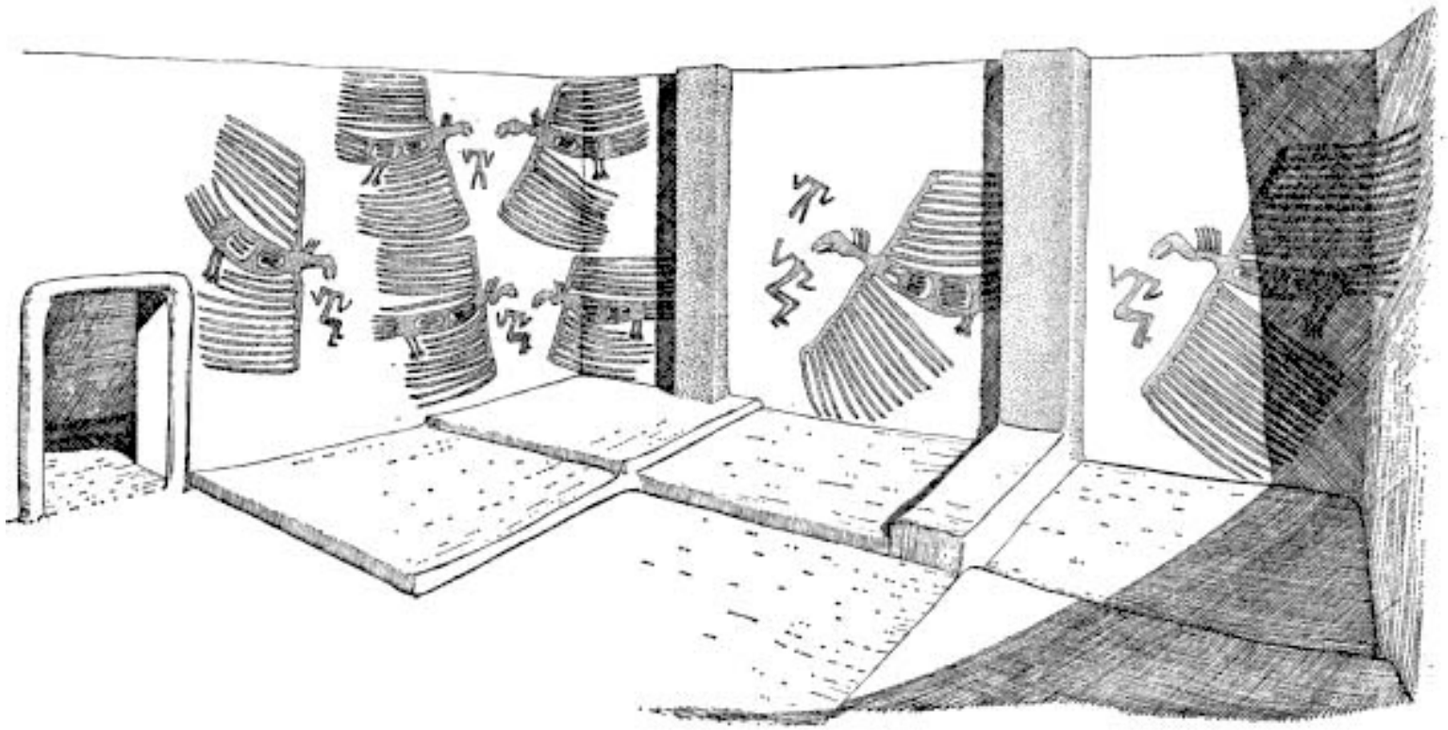
- Plastered skull held in the arms of the older female
- Face to face
- The skull has been repainted and re-plastered - may have been curated over a long period of time.
- Ancestor cult?
- Think about social structures in relation to this object.

Decapitation

- Headless adult primary burial from the North Area at Çatalhöyük.



Iconography











The addition of colour



- Redeposited cranium (centre) painted with cinnabar found at Çatalhöyük in the 1960s.

- Red-painted crania have been found by Mellaart in the 1960s and also during the current excavations.
- Red ochre is most commonly used, followed by cinnabar (mercury sulfide).
- Photograph of grave fill excavated in the 1960s
- Found underneath a house floor
- Cinnabar had been painted directly onto the cranium

Building 80



Buildings Closure

- At the end of their life-cycle houses at Çatalhöyük fell were "closed":
  - Wooden posts and other useful building materials were retrieved and used again.
  - The upper parts of walls were knocked down
  - The building was filled with rubble
  - This became the foundation for the next building built above
  - Objects were sometimes placed on the floors
  - Deposits include: animal bones, projectile points, pottery, and sometimes disarticulated human remains.

Summary

- The importance of creativity
- Particular relationships with animals
- Ritual: Opening and Closing events
- Impressive example of a Neolithic town.
- Impressive example of contemporary archaeological practice