

Unravelling the ancient origins of human dance



Dance is a non verbal form of communication which has been studied within the confines of certain historical periods. However, archaeological evidence now supports the theory that the evolution of dance can be traced back to the early humans in Europe, nearly 40,000 years ago



With a lack of physical evidence, ancient dance has not received much attention as a research topic. However, given its crucial role in human activity throughout history, it is important to consider it as a valuable subject for future exploration

Dance has been an essential part of human evolution and an ancient form of human behavior. By studying prehistoric depictions of dance activity, we can gain a deeper understanding of societies throughout history.



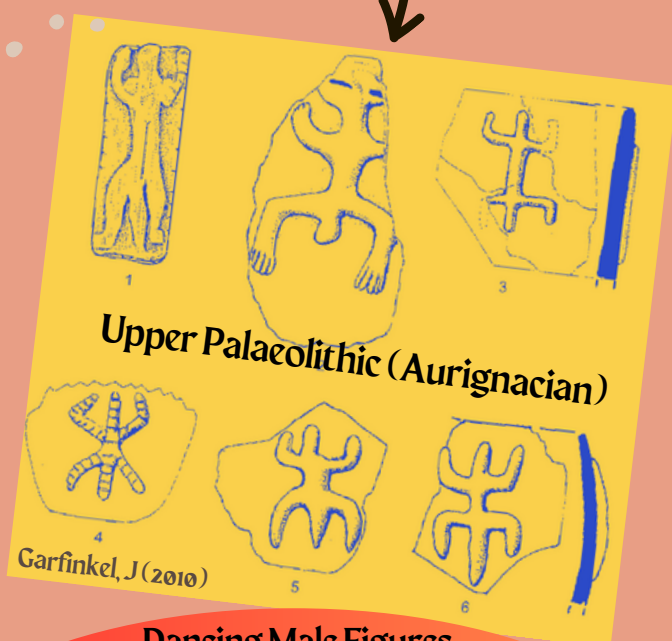
Dancing female figures engraved on stone (2010) Garfinkel



Dancing female figures engraved on stone (2010) Garfinkel

The Palaeolithic in Europe

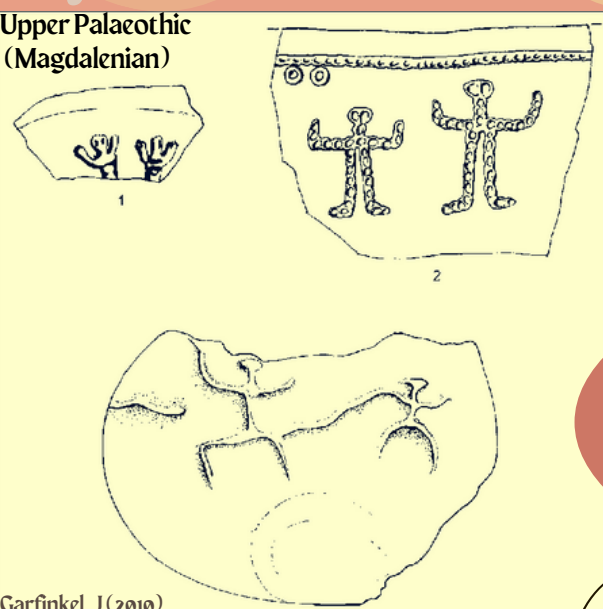
- Discovery of earliest modern humans (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) in Swabian Jura region of southwest Germany - c.40 000 years BP
- Archaeological finds in the caves of Geissenklosterle, Hole Fels and Bocksteinhole are an engraved human figure, eight bone and ivory flutes, and quantities of ornaments



Dancing Male Figures

Artifacts, including ivory carvings and pottery vessels, exhibit engraved male figures. Supplementary artifacts and ethnographic observations suggest that these engravings depict early modern humans participating in dance ceremonies.

Upper Palaeolithic (Magdalenian)

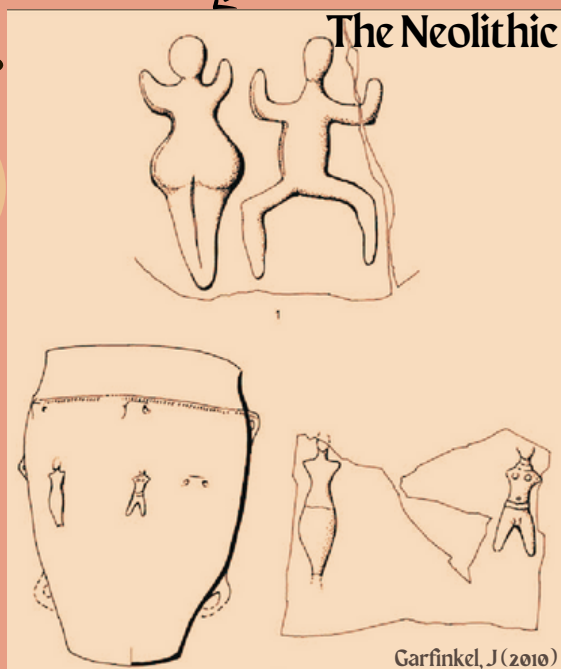


Human Depictions on Pottery Vessels

The discovery of figurines, among other artifacts, has led experts to believe that these objects represent scenes of dance. This hypothesis was formulated through a careful analysis of the body language, and movement direction, depicted in the artwork.

The Significance of Depictions of Early Dancing Humans

Over time, social traditions have been depicted in art form in many ways. It is important not to overlook the significance of early depictions of humans dancing as part of human evolution



The Neolithic