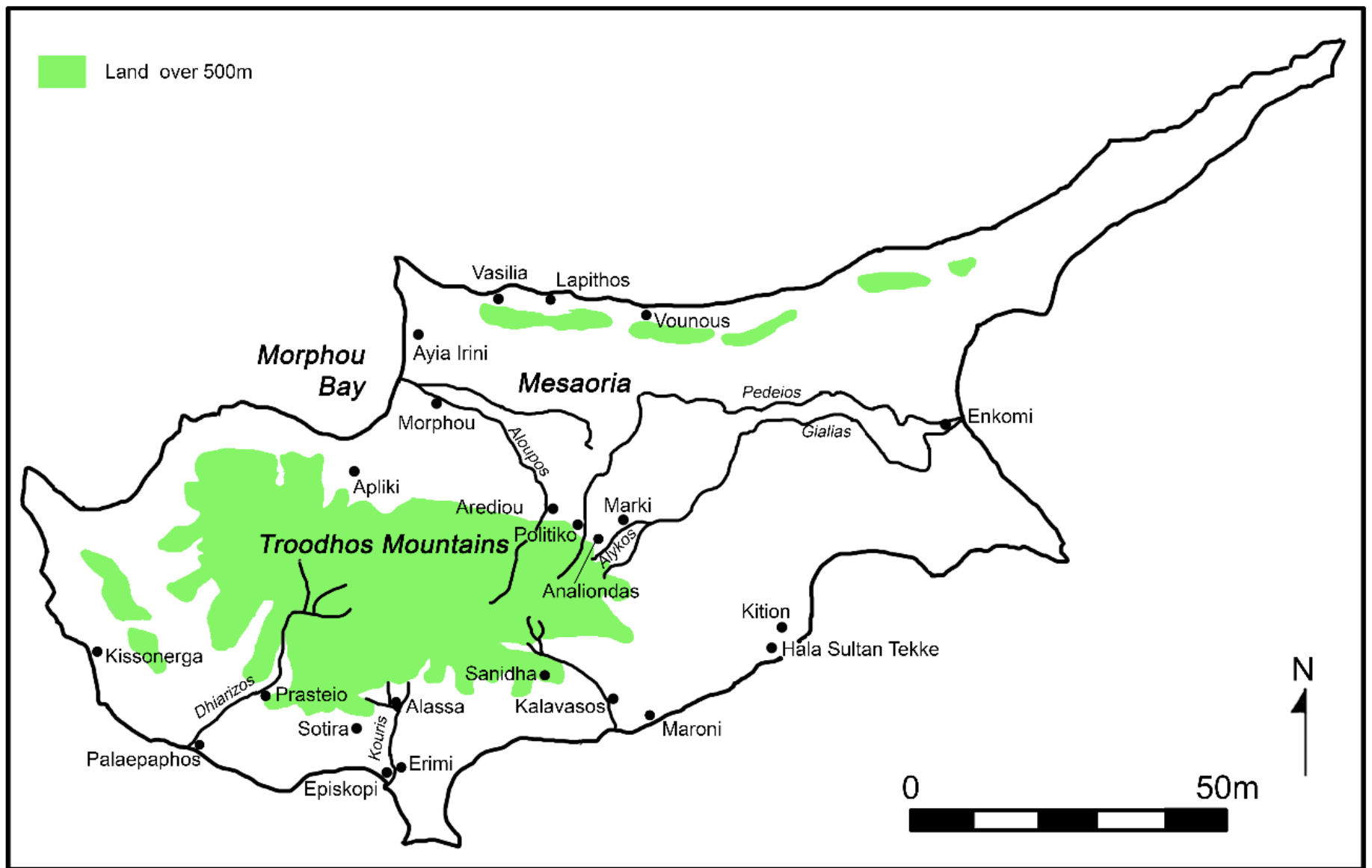


What Happened in Room 103 at Arediou?

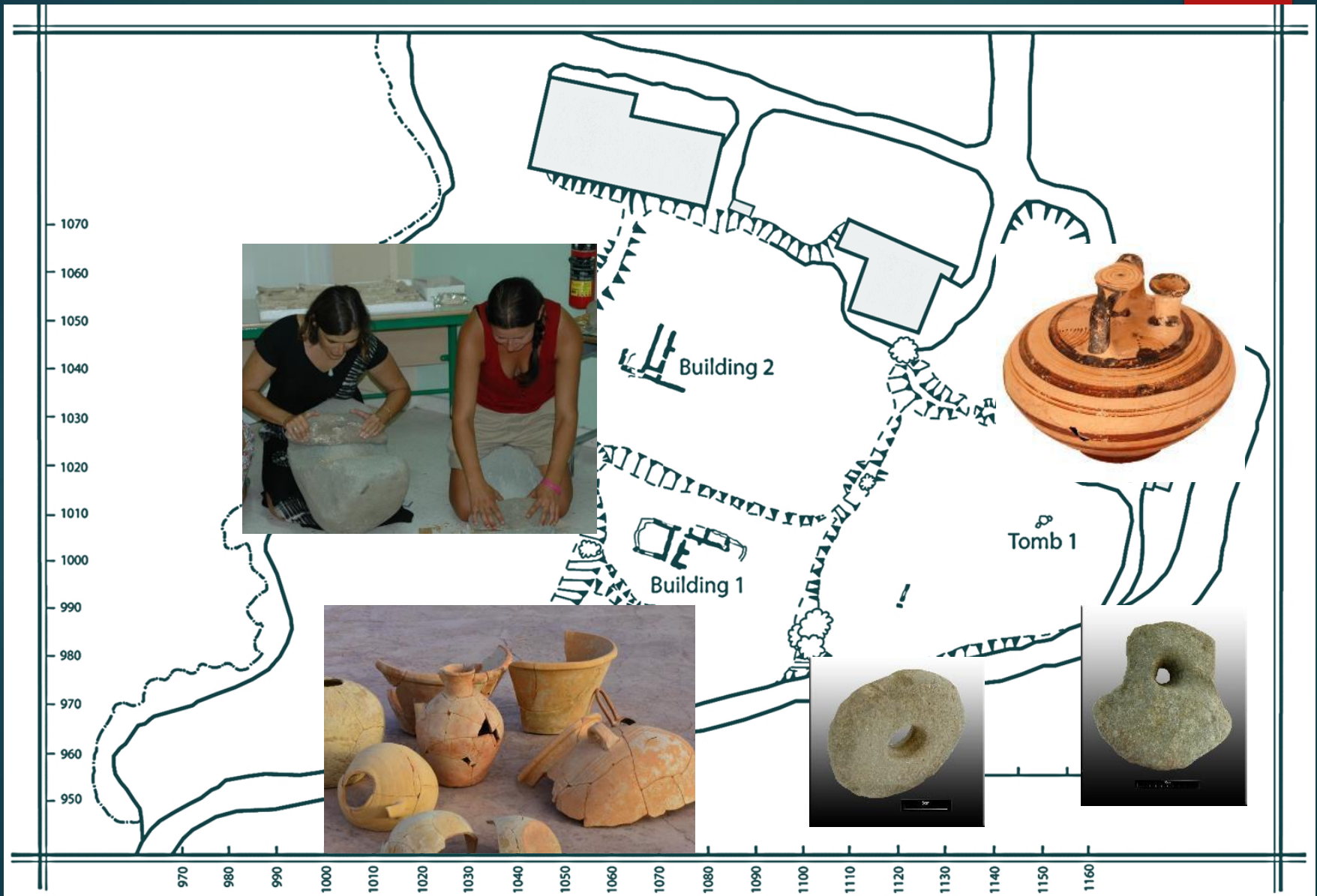
Louise Steel



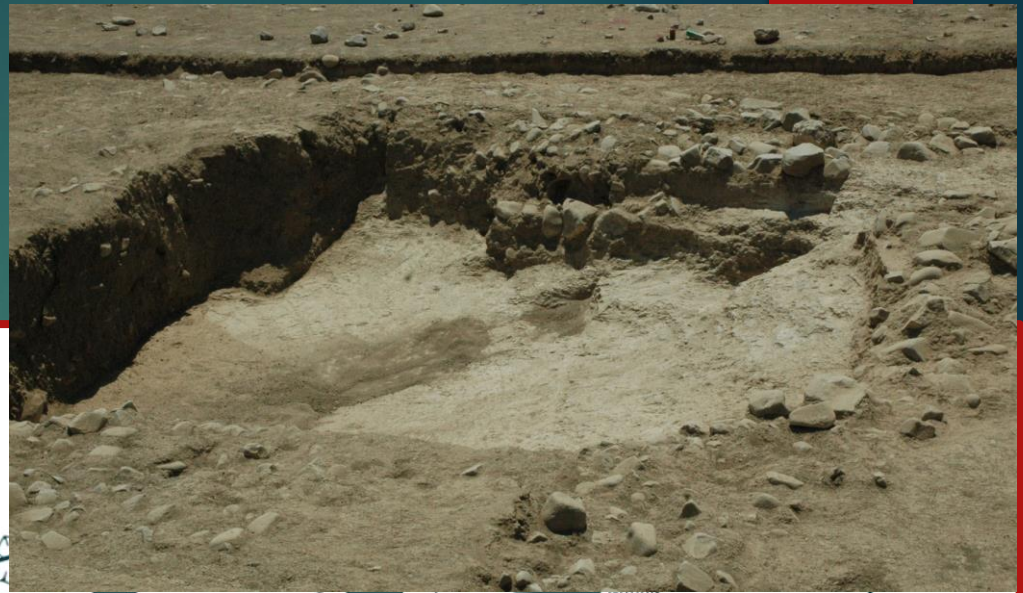
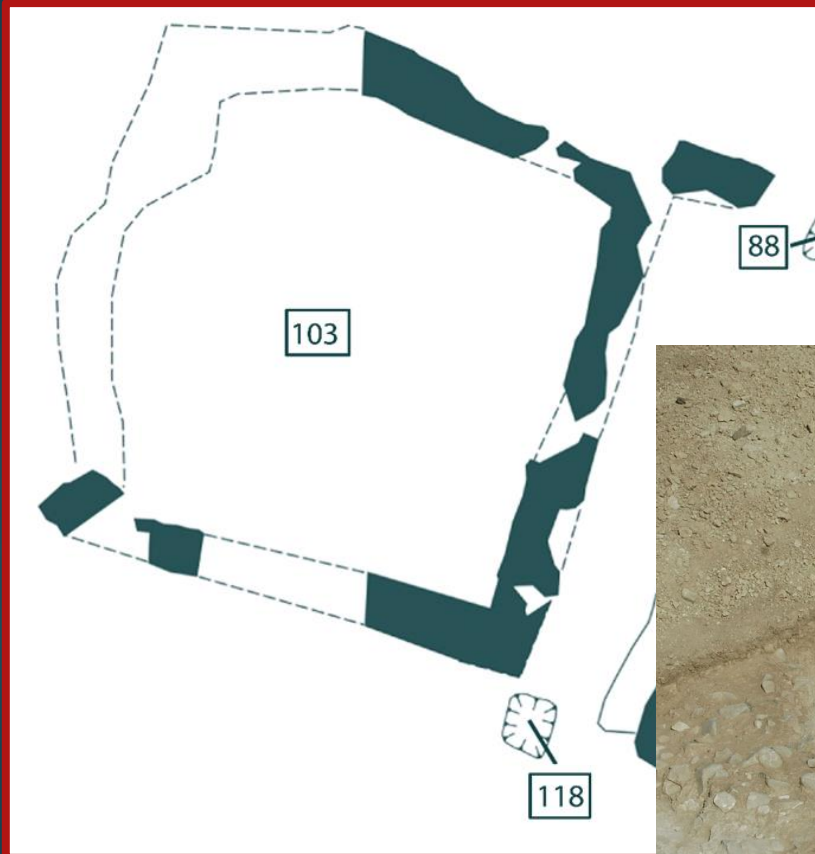
Socioeconomic Context



Arediou

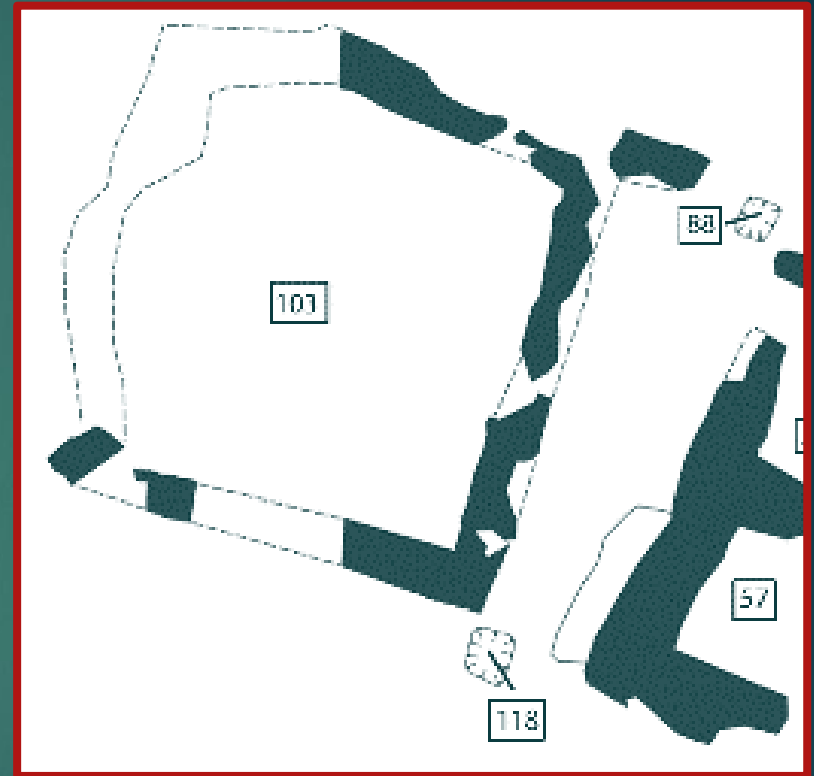


Room 103



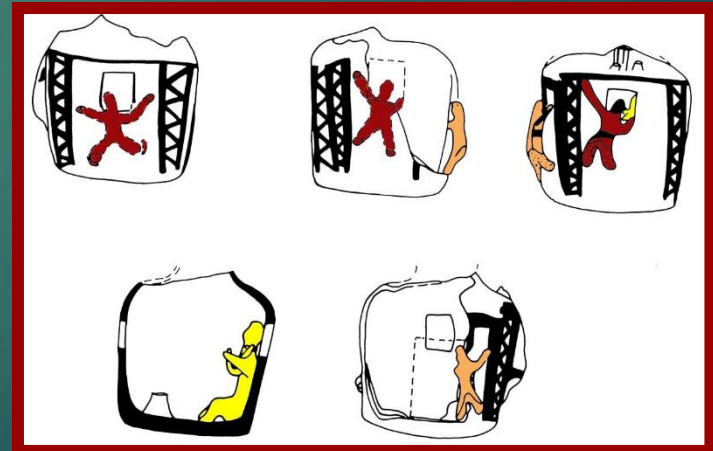
Enclosed/Concealed Space

- ▶ Separate from daily production activities & specifically constructed as a special place, possibly for a select social group
 - ▶ Size: a place for gatherings,
 - ▶ Manipulation of senses inherent in architecture

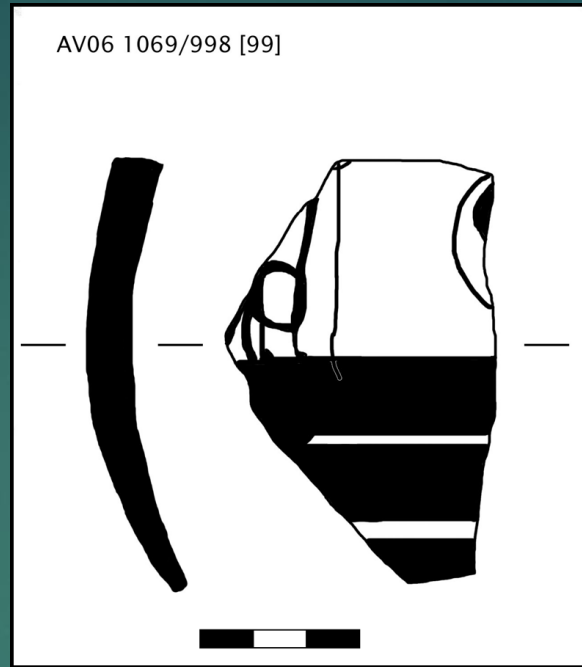


Enclosed/Concealed Space

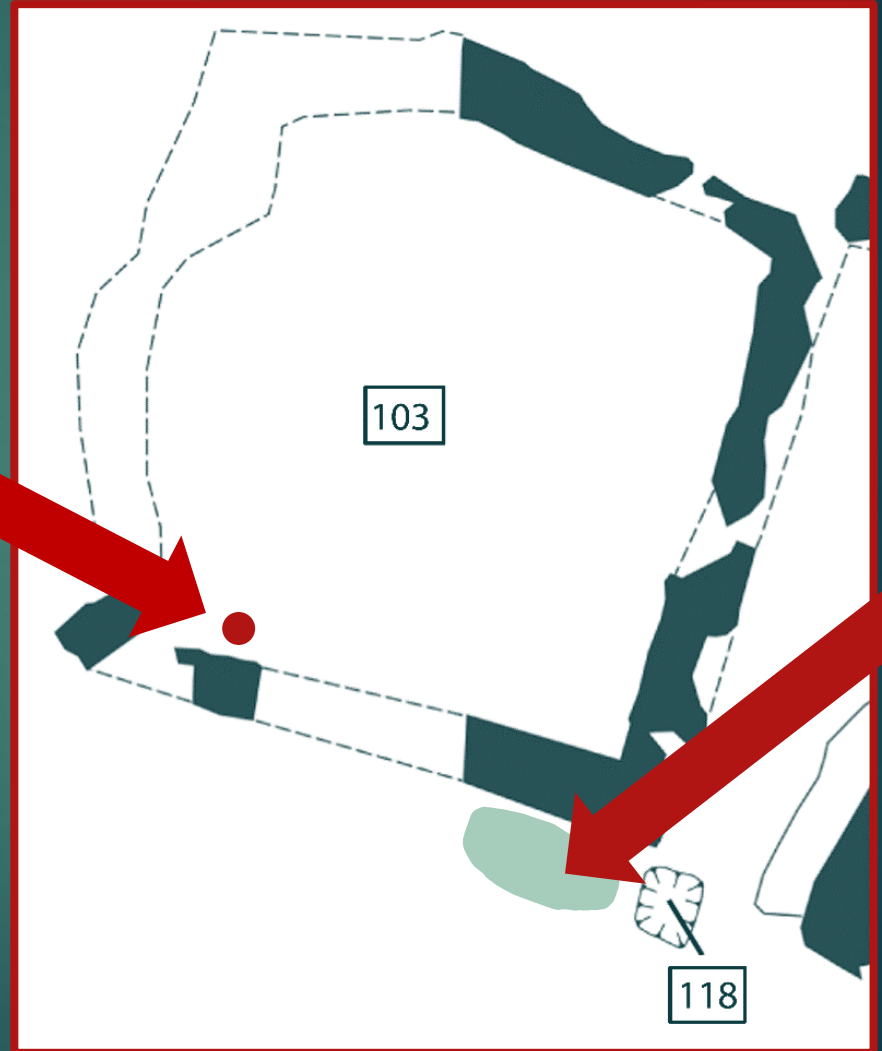
- ▶ Enclosed & concealed places represent a recurring motif in Cypriot coroplastic art
- ▶ Location of esoteric knowledge & performative practices in Bronze Age Cyprus?



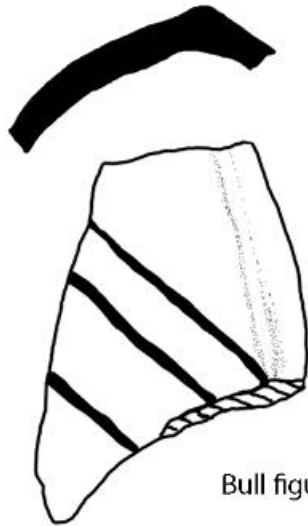
Pottery



Pottery and Wall Brackets



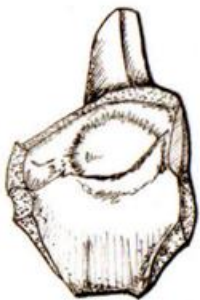
Figurine Fragments



Bull figurine fragment



AV08-01-04



AV06-01-09



AV08-01-01



Materiality & Embodied Praxis

- ▶ Pottery: consumption of food & drink
- ▶ Specialised Ugaritic equipment
 - ▶ Commensality – the shared consumption of food and drink – is a means by which social bonds are created, mediated and reiterated



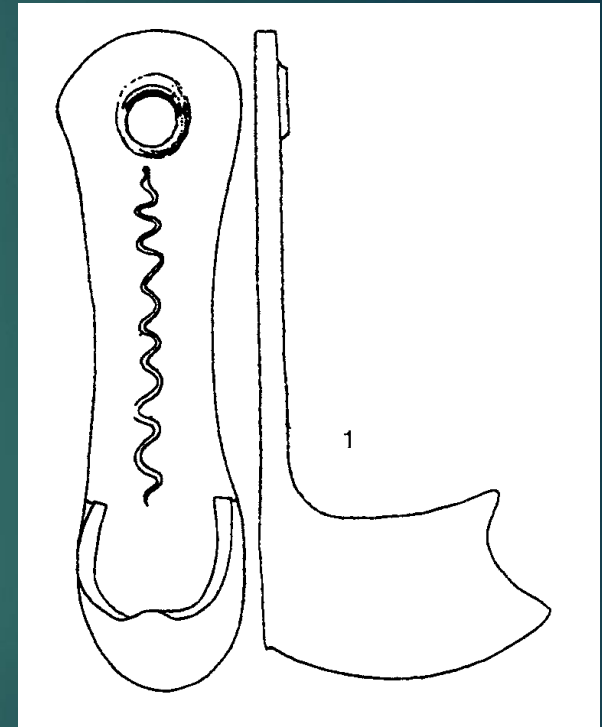
Materiality & Embodied Praxis

- ▶ Sensory manipulation:
 - ▶ Red Lustrous flasks & Base Ring juglet Containers of valuable substances
- ▶ Bull rhyta:
 - ▶ Regularly and repeatedly handled
 - ▶ Used to pour precious liquids
 - ▶ Economic/symbolic capital
 - ▶ Frequently associated with crafting/production areas



Wall brackets

- ▶ Function?
- ▶ Designed to be hung on a wall :
 - ▶ Visual objects: display or attention focusing device
 - ▶ Growing consensus that wall brackets served some undetermined ritual purpose
- ▶ Association with craft production, usually metallurgical
- ▶ Repeated combination of wall brackets & kraters:
 - ▶ Embedded in feasting practices



Interpreting Praxis in Room 103

- ▶ Important role in the ceremonial life / ritual action of the community at Aredhiou
- ▶ Staging of various ritualized performances within a darkened space:
 - ▶ Lamp & enclosed space:
- ▶ Manipulation of senses:
 - ▶ Consumption of alcoholic beverages served in specialised drinking equipment
 - ▶ Libations
 - ▶ Handling figurines
 - ▶ Anointing body & ingesting opium?
- ▶ Sensorial, affective properties of materials & substances would have enhanced, or altered their perceptions of time & space

Heterotopia?



- ▶ “other space”: somewhere that lies outside the repeated, habitual rhythms of daily life
- ▶ Somewhere that inverts social norms & throws up a mirror to normal spaces:
 - ▶ “reflects & contests simultaneously” (Johnson 2007, 76)
- ▶ Room 103 was a heterotopia for the LBA community of Aredhiou:
 - ▶ An isolated ritual counter-space which was not freely or easily accessible
 - ▶ A performative space, where specific rituals & ceremonies were enacted

Hospitality

- ▶ A means of regulating & managing the “other”
- ▶ An uneasy, ambivalent, indeed potentially dangerous form of social interaction:
 - ▶ “Welcoming” & admitting potentially dangerous strangers into private (familial)spaces
 - ▶ Temporality of daily life is suspended and normal social rules are subverted
 - ▶ Also highlights very real dangers for the guest





Thank you