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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ROCK ART IN LATER PREHISTORIC EUROPE

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A Comparative Study of Rock Art in Later Prehistoric Europe

Elements in the Archaeology of Europe

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Abstract: This Element summarises the state of knowledge about four styles of prehistoric rock in Europe current between the late Mesolithic period and the Iron Age. They are the Levantine, Macroschematic and Schematic traditions in the Iberian Peninsula; the Atlantic style that extended between Portugal, Spain, Britain and Ireland; Alpine rock art; and the pecked and painted images found in Fennoscandia. They are interpreted in relation to the landscapes in which they were made. A final section considers possible connections between these traditions and discusses the changing subject matter of rock art in relation to wider developments in European prehistory.

Keywords: prehistory, rock art, paintings, petroglyphs, landscape

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