



First Palaeolithic Seminar, Thursday 26/10/2023, 19:00



The handaxe aesthetic

Professor Thomas Wynn, University of Colorado

Abstract

For over one-and-a-half million years our early ancestors made and used handaxes. Archaeologists have mostly been concerned with how these early hominins made and used them, as well as their distribution in time and space. However, as the exhibition *The Origins of Sculpture* sets out to show, these early stone tools also document the very earliest glimmerings of the human aesthetic sense. Drawing interpretive concepts from the discipline of neuroaesthetics, the talk summarizes several of the aesthetic effects highlighted by the exhibition, including basic Gestalt effects, the peak shift effect, and framing. This will be followed by a closer look at the emergence of regular geometric forms and their unique role in human perception.

1 Koumbari St. & Vas. Sofias Ave., 106 74 Athens
Location
Amphitheater, Benaki Museum of Greek Culture



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού

Coordination

Professor Nena Galanidou, University of Crete

Dr. Andreas Darlas, Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology, Ministry of Culture

