



14th International Congress on the Archaeology
of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

In the public eye: somatoperception and visualisation of personal adornment on Bronze Age figurines from Cyprus

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the study of personal adornment depicted on Bronze Age anthropomorphic figurines from Cyprus. The figurines are approached through an interdisciplinary perspective which combines the analytical methods of cognitive psychology with those of archaeology to explore new ways of understanding perceptions concerning the body and its adornment as part of social identity. The discussion centres, on the one hand, on the concepts associated with the producers' own bodies as formed through their mental processes and, on the other, on the materialisation of the body schema in the form of figurines' adorned bodies. The exploration of figurines through the principles of cognitive psychology may offer new insights into the way the social identity and collective self was mentally constructed and materially expressed through the depiction of the beautified body. The adoption of the psychology-derived approach in archaeology aims to demonstrate that it is possible to gain insights into bodily adornment as an inextricable part of social identity through the study of figurine makers' and figurine viewers' perceptions. It could be argued that figurines from Cyprus constituted schemata of commonly held ideals that drew from internal perceptions of the adorned body to generate an image of collective identity.

Keywords

Figurines, Bronze Age, Cyprus, Adornment, Perception

Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

Workshop

A16293GT - Not Just Pretty Objects: Personal Adornments and the Social Persona

Type of paper

Oral presentation