



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Bio-geography and Artifacts. The Landscape Dimension as Space for Human Action

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Abstract

Questioning the notion of 'humanity' and the production of knowledge from an environmental perspective means revising the traditional vision of man as self-sufficient and decision-making subject. Research in the area of Environmental Humanities, a growing field also focused on the study of human imagination, perception, behaviors and the relationship of humans to their environment is developing coherent sets of theories focused on landscape as a fundamental dimension in which environmental and human processes can find coherent life strategies. Landscape is intended as physical but also as cognitive dimension, the phenomenological context in which the complexity of the ecosystems emerges. This paper wants to explore the use of plant-shaped body ornaments: they must have taken on a multiplicity of meanings varying in relation to the purpose of the object itself, the historical period to which it belongs, and the signification processes linking humans to their surroundings. The symbolic intent of artifacts was important as much as the descriptive role of objects linked to the subsistence practices and social life. The ontological particularities of plants (structure, fruits, flowers, and so on) were part of a narrative concerning the knowledge of specific crops, how they were regarded and their use.

Keywords

bio-geography, artifacts, plant-shaped, ornaments, ancient near east

Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

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