



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Khirbet Kerak Ware figurines in the southern Levant: a comparative overview

*KNUDSEN N. ^{1,2}**

¹ Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

² University College London, LONDON, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Diminutive, free-standing zoomorphic figurines have long since featured within the coroplastic repertoire of the southern Levant as part of an integrated aspect of creative and symbolic expression. However, at the cusp of Early Bronze Age III (ca. 2850–2500/2400 BC) the migrant Kura-Araxes (K-A) communities (locally dubbed the Khirbet Kerak Ware (KKW) people) made their appearance in the region (ca. 2850–2700 BC), bringing with them their unique brand of cultural and material traditions that includes a distinctive group of animal figurines.

This presentation will give a holistic account of a discrete corpus of securely dated KKW figurines from sites in the central Jordan Valley in its immediate environs. Aspects of their technological and stylistic characteristics will be presented, as well as drawing comparisons between these clay animals and their extant, local counterparts.

In view of the extended temporal and geographical divide between the interrelated K-A and KKW groups, I will also offer a descriptive overview highlighting any cultural continuum and/or fractures that may have evolved within their respective figurative worlds from their earliest origin in the north, to the furthest, southern-most reaches of the diaspora.

Keywords

Zoomorphic figurines, Khirbet Kerak Ware, terracotta animals, Early Bronze Age, cultural symbolism

Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

Workshop

A16069MI - Kura-Araxes Cultural Phenomenon: Variability, Continuity and Dissolution

Type of paper

Oral presentation