



GIPRI – (COLOMBIA)

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The Group Investigating Indigenous Rock Art (GIPRI), based in Colombia, has worked on researching the aesthetic representations of the High Andean Plains of Cundinamarca and Boyacà since the 1970's (Munoz 2006).

(<http://www.icomos.org/studies/rock-latinamerica.html>)

It has mainly concentrated on the study of the history and research into Colombian rock art, including enquiry into how various cultural historical processes have shaped the conception of Indigenous communities allowing and impeding in each case the study and comprehension of the heritage of these communities.

Likewise, this work group, attempts to involve the investigation of present day rural traditions that have syncretic relationships to Spanish and Indigenous inheritance, and develop different strategies to collect ethnographic information including recording oral traditions which have helped in the discovery of new rock art sites in the country.

Another fundamental aspect of this research is the recording and documentation of rock art areas with both paintings and petroglyphs.

This work has been conducted in the departments of Cundinamarca, Boyacá, Tolima, and Huila. A methodological model of recording and documentation has been designed including localizing sites using GPS and GIS, detailed descriptions of the sites' features and rock art patterns and motifs (using both drawings and photography), as well as the organization of this information in specialized databases, etc.

In addition, GIPRI has dedicated much of its time to the study and protection of rock art, focusing on factors of alteration and deterioration that affect open air sites. This work has led to realizing archeometric analyses, in particular on sites with paintings.

At present, some of the members of GIPRI are presently undertaking graduate study in Portugal. The authors are working respectively on their Masters and Doctorate in the universities of Portugal under the coordination of Luiz Oosterbeek (Scientific Director, Secretary General of the UISPP- INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR PREHISTORIC AND PROTOHISTORIC SCIENCES). This work concerns the history of the interpretations of rock art, archeometry of the rock art paintings, archeology of the landscape and lithic artifact workshops.

Within this new body of research, several joint projects have been initiated in Portugal and Colombia. Among these are museum projects such as the Museo de Museus de Arte Rupestre (Museum of Museums of Rock Art) and studies on the transitions of hunter gatherers to agropastoralism. Another project is the Museo en la Población de Maçao. (the Museum in the Maçao Community), a "Transformations" project of the European Economic Community's Institute of Geosciences ITM and the Municipal Council of Maçao. This project involves archeometric studies and the identification of the pigments used in rock art painting. Additional recording and conservation work in rock art areas using the methodological models is involved with the

"Proyecto de Arqueología Ribatejo." Here, part of the work involves digitizing and the digital manipulation of the transcriptions by Fratel of rock art (in the old latex molds).

Remarks and Introduction to the Round Table on Community Museums & Rock Art Initiatives

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