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# The use of ancient symbols through times

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## Abstract

Since their creation up to the present, ancient symbols have been used for different purposes. This paper explains the ways in which different social groups have used the rock art symbols during different time periods. By observing the rock art sites in Kosovo, we see at least three different ways of using and reusing the ancient symbols: a) the first one is when some elements of given symbols are used to create the same type of symbols next to each other. This occurs mostly in the case of asterisks where one line from the first asterisk spreads along to the center of the next, and another line of the second one goes to the third asterisk, representing in this way a multi cellular structure and its relationships and interconnectivity. Another case of the same way represents the symbol of double square, where a part of first square is used to create the second one; b) The second way is the case when one symbol is used to create another type of symbol. This usually happens by superimposed symbols, and in the particular site I'm studying this case is best represented by the pentagram and square with crossed lines; c) The third way, which is probably the most important one, is when some prehistoric symbols become part of visual experience today by using them for various purposes, such as logos for organizations or institutions, for decorations in different products, or for other aspects of social practices. In this paper I explain the reason why people use and reuse the same symbols during different time periods by concluding that this is done predominantly for practical, spiritual, aesthetical, or ideological reasons, or certainly, for all of them.

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