

WORLD OCEAN DAY

ROCK ART IN LATIN AMERICA

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World Oceans Day reminds everyone of their important role in our daily lives. They're the lungs of our planet, an important source of food and medicine and a fundamental part of the biosphere.

In past societies, water from springs, rivers, seas and oceans was essential for the development and survival of human groups for thousands of years. These groups settled near water sources to use it as a resource, to consume, fish, cultivate or extract minerals, but also as a means of communication, interaction and exchange. In addition, many watery spaces had a high significance and symbolism for the inhabitants of the past and therefore the evidence of rock art, burials or places of worship are physically related to these places.



Benjamín Ballester
National Geographic



cave paintings



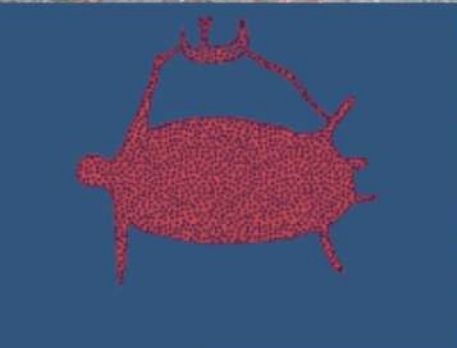
MAPA DE LA DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ESPECIES MARINAS EN EL ROCK ART DE EL HEBRADO, CHILE. IN BALLESTER, ET AL. 2018.

THE COASTLINE OF THE ATACAMA DESERT CHILE

In this geographic space, human populations have hunted, fished and gathered in the sea, the coast and the desert, practically uninterrupted at least since 11000 cal. ap.

The human collectives settled on the coast established, in their formation as a society, a close link with marine animals (Ballester, et al. 2018) such as turtles, cuttlefish or squid, sea lions and whales or dolphins.

The representation of cetaceans and turtles inserted in marine hunting scenes, where boats, some harpoons and human figures are painted on top of the boats in hunting action, undoubtedly stands out.



BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MÉXICO

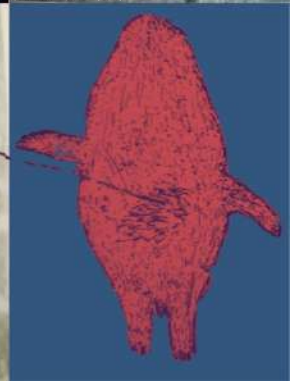
The aquatic world is one of the main themes in the rock art tradition of the "Great Murals. It's represented by abundant figures such as puffer fish, rays, hawksbill or loggerhead turtles, sea lions and mackerels or tuna (Viñas 2013).

Climate change phenomena not only affect the water resources themselves, but also the world heritage located near them. Examples are clear in the rocky sites near the sea that are disappearing due to the rising tide or in the caves where the constant visit of tourists causes the temperature to rise and the ancient paintings to disappear.

This year the theme of the International Year is "Revitalization: Collective action for the oceans".



REPRESENTATIONS OF MARINE SPECIES IN THE PAINTED CAVE, B.C.S., MEXICO. IN VIÑAS B (2013).



BALLESTER BENJAMÍN, LARA ALINA, VIÑAS RAMÓN. DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ESPECIES MARINAS EN EL ROCK ART DE EL HEBRADO, CHILE. IN BALLESTER, ET AL. 2018.
VIÑAS RAMÓN. EL MUNDO DE LOS PUEBLOS PREHISTÓRICOS. BOLETÍN DEL MUSEO CHILENO DE ARTE PREHISTÓRICO.
VIÑAS RAMÓN. EL MUNDO DE LOS PUEBLOS PREHISTÓRICOS. BOLETÍN DEL MUSEO CHILENO DE ARTE PREHISTÓRICO.
LARA ALINA. (2013). PROYECTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y MANEJO DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL EN LA ZONA DE SAN VICENTE, B.C.S., MÉXICO. IBERO.
ALINA LARA (COORDINADORA) Y MANEJO DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL EN LA ZONA DE SAN VICENTE, B.C.S., MÉXICO. IBERO. 2013. 2014.