

“The Birth of Difference”

Digital illustration

I created an illustration as my submission for exploration of a subject. This illustration shows a surreal setting with the T shaped pillars from Gobekli Tepe creating a path towards a rendition of the cave painting in Lascaux. It conveys the spiritual world at a point in time where the emergence of a vertical hierarchy began to appear.

I wanted to create an illustration that represents the metaphysical change prehistoric people experienced with the emergence of the bow and arrow. I wanted to portray this change between a flat hierarchy to a more vertical one through this medium.

How my illustration captures this metaphysical change:

Pittura Metafisica

Pittura Metafisica (also called Metaphysical painting) is an art movement that began in 1910 by the Italian artist Giorgio de Chirico, the movement did not last for long as recovery began after World War 1. This style strives to create compositions where realistic depictions of contemporary settings were juxtaposed with iconography related to everyday lives at the time. This style gives the audience a sense of stepping into a dream like world.

I chose this style as it is great at portraying a world that is outside the bounds of our reality, to portray the prehistoric spiritual world and give the audience a view of what could

not be seen and to allude to what lies beneath the conscious of everyday life as a prehistoric individual.

Composition

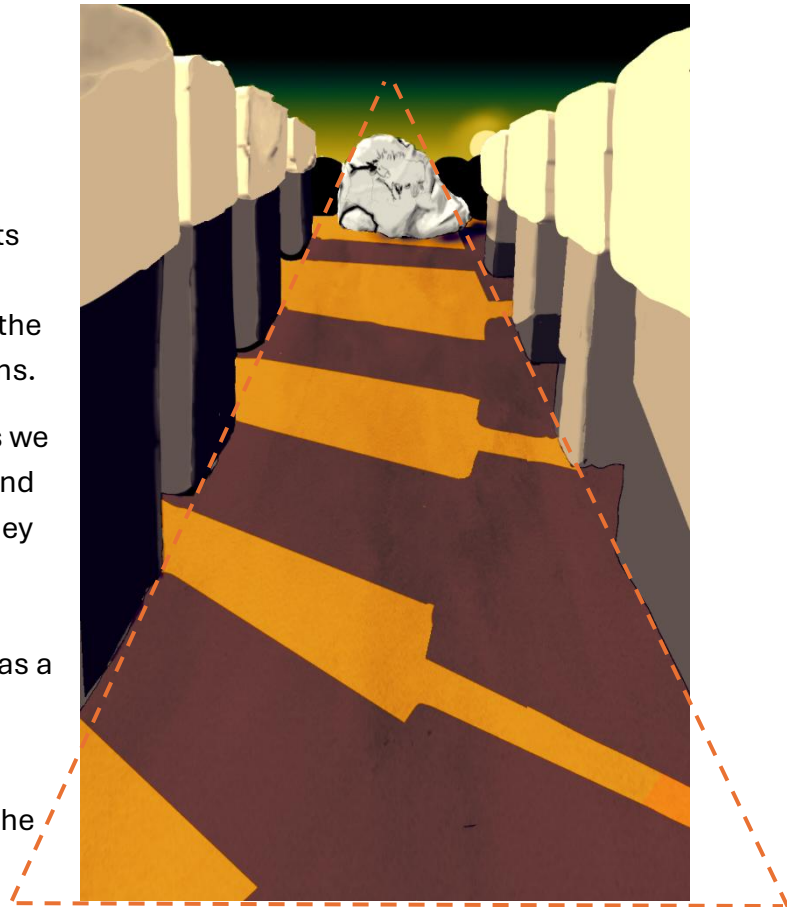
In order to portray the emergence of a vertical hierarchy, I decided to create the piece using a triangular composition with a singular focal point where the Lascaux cave sits at the top of the triangle to symbolize human dominance over nature and the emergence of the idea that there is difference between all humans.

The T-shaped pillars of Gobekli Tepe, as we know are representations of the human form and the manifestation of an idea. In this painting they represent the strength of abstract thought, In comparison to Lascaux which was a simple painting made on a cave wall likely to be used as a tool as it was made with the most available medium and minimal detail and effort.

The T shaped pillars are painted out of the triangular composition to show that they are a result of the emergence of this vertical hierarchy and of prehistoric man being cut loose from their direct surroundings. They are arranged in rows packed together to symbolize collective structure over personal identity. Around that time, we begin to see people working together an example of which would be the site of Gobekli Tepe, this pack mentality allowed prehistoric man to thrive in relation to nature around them.

Symbolism

A lot of symbols are hidden within this painting. One of these symbols is the rendition of the cave paintings found at Lascaux. In the original cave painting, we see an aurochs throwing over a man. In my rendition we see the aurochs in the same position with an arrow in their head. This remake of the original symbolizes inequality between man and nature, the emergence of the arrow allowed man to easily overpower animals in hunts. Placing this painting at the top of the triangular composition portrays how this invention gave humans an advantage over the world around them.



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Another hidden symbol is the shadow of the T shaped pillars. The Shamans at the time believed that everything in the real world had a connection with its own spirit in the spiritual world. Shamanists believed that the visible real world is of the same importance as the spiritual world. When an animal is killed, the animal's spirit is released from its real body. This metaphysics is what we refer to as horizontal. In *The Birth of Difference*, the placement of the sun and the shadows of the T shaped pillars do not align. This is to show that the spiritual and real world are no longer aligned, similar to how the spirit of a hunted animal is released from its body. The spiritual world is now above the real world as the metaphysics of man begin to evolve. This scene captures a frame in time when this evolution began to take place.

