



Theories + Practice Rock Art Landscape/Archaeology 18th -29th July, 2012



International Rock Art Workshop-Seminar /Bogota/El Colegio/Sutatausa-Cundinamarca, Colombia

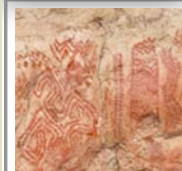


THE HISTORY PROCESS

- The history of rock art investigation isn't only a question of education, nor a marginal aspect of the work of investigators. It's a reflexion about the basis, in other words, about the history of languages, of the original authors as well as the scholars who have studied the theme.-
- The relationships and differences between rock art studies and archaeology are central to the reconstruction and looking at these we find a special way to recreate history.
- The processes of thorough registration, the theoretic studies and analyses derived from basic sciences are indispensable to orient current investigation.
- This is the central part of the Seminar-Workshop



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THE COLOMBIAN HIGH PLAINS ZONES CONTAIN AREAS OF HIGH CONCENTRATION OF ROCK ART (PICTOGRAPHS AND PETROGLYPHS) AND LITHIC TOOL MANUFACTURING SITES

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The Indigenous Rock Art Investigation Group Gipri is an independent non-governmental organization (NGO) that has been investigating and studying rock art motifs in Colombia since 1970.

Its experience in investigation has led it to develop two large groups of themes. In the first one, special attention is paid to theoretical topics, to the historic studies about documentation methods and the history of interpretations. In the second one, field work experience has

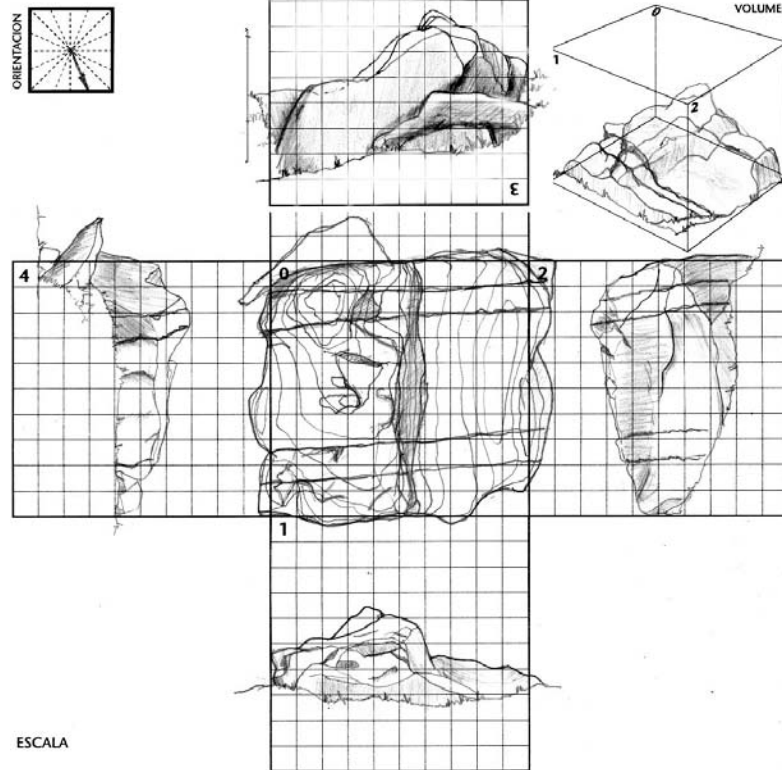
permitted the formulation and change, during different periods, of the registry systems and detailed descriptions of rock art and events associated with it. A methodological model permits the collection of detailed information about rock art motifs, about the general composition of the settlement, its location and a first diagnosis about the state of conservation, including the paintings, engravings, and the substrate itself.

As a complement to those studies, now stabilized, investigations associated with the materials (pigments) and about the instruments that were used to make the paintings and engravings have been initiated. The objectives of the new phase of study are: the reconstruction of the way of we operate, and the study of the composition and the technologies used by the pre-Columbian inhabitants.

Publication of the Rupestre bulletin: Arte Rupestre in Colombia, the coordination of the host server (http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/arte_y_rupestre/), and participation in different national and international congresses constitute its fundamental activities. The last objective is to study the representational systems, the language and thought processes that these aesthetic systems contain.



• REGISTRY SYSTEMS AND THE PROCESS OF DOCUMENTATION

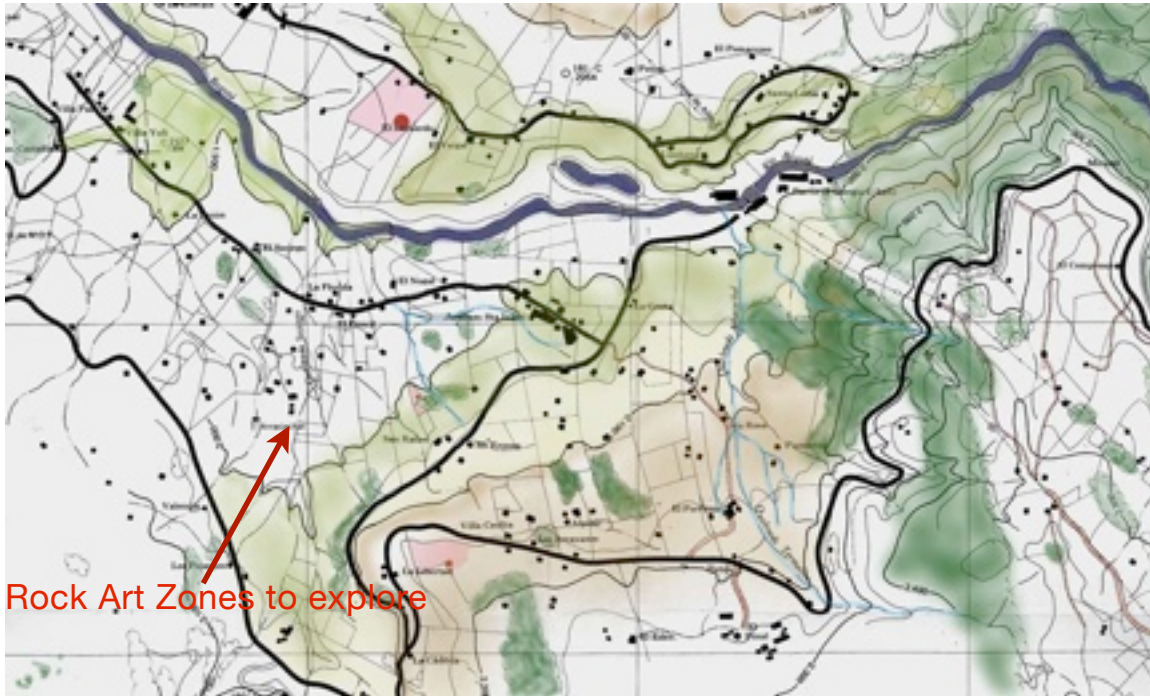


• Registry and documentation model

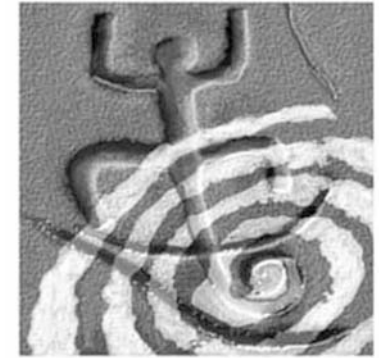
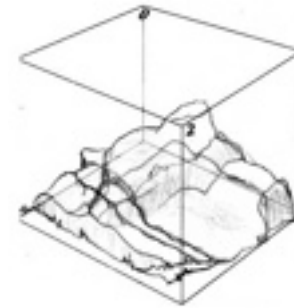
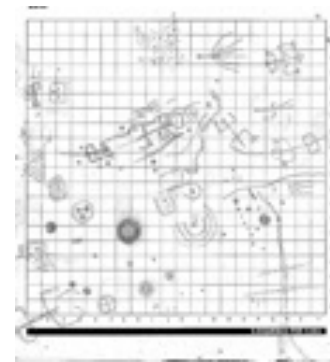
- The description of the details of the sites is seen in a formal structure (description field notes) that permit the organization of graphic, photographic and cartographic information.
- Various forms help to describe graphically and photographically each and every one of the sections in which basic information is collected, that will be used in the visual reconstruction of the motifs, and to evaluate their state of conservation. The different aspects additionally have a relationship to the data bases, whose information is incorporated into a geographic information system.

Four rock faces and their interpretation are described in full..

- Rough draft of Field Note No. 2.



Rock Art Zones to explore



GIPRI
COLOMBIA

Field trips to the areas where rocks with rock art are located requires a system of planned activities and various stages of registration and documentation. The proposed seminar will take place in two distinct sites. The first site is an area of pictographs in the Sutatausa region and the petroglyph site is in the town of El Colegio.

Archeological -rock art places

Sutatausa Pictographs

Among the first references to rock art of Sutatausa zone, correspond to the works of Wenceslao Cabrera Ortiz, 1970. He published early records and some small freehand maps including the shape of the rocks and the distribution of rock art motifs.

In 1983 GIPRI began the prospection in the area, in addition to the pictorial groups found by Wenceslao, 10 in total, have been founding no fewer than 60 sites in different villages, mainly in the eastern sector of the municipality.

In recent years have been found, in addition to the paintings in red, some black and white pigments. The variety of motifs, and archaeological studies in the area, show it was a densely populated area at different times, from hunter gatherers to the Muisca culture.

El Colegio Petroglyphs

The rock art research in El Colegio, is one of the most important contribution to the study and understanding of national identity and heritage care.

The team GIPRI has implemented several strategies to carry out a research, documentation and study of spiritual world of the communities present in this territory. Since 1996, the Civic Mayor of the Municipality of El Colegio has been sponsoring research that seeks mainly to the rescue, registration, disclosure and care of rock art sites. These aesthetic expressions (petroglyphs), that the ancient inhabitants of the area developed on rocks. The first news we have of this type

recorded in the municipality, is owed to the reporting of Javier Rodriguez (1987), and the work of Rafael Urbina-Herminda Duarte (1989). With this news, the research group (GIPRI), moved to rural areas. However, it soon became clear that the number of rocks with petroglyphs was greater than initially reported. Thanks to the collaboration of the peasants and the working group, managed to locate a large

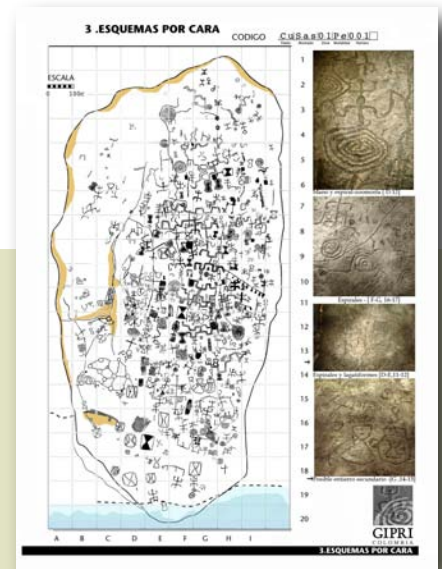
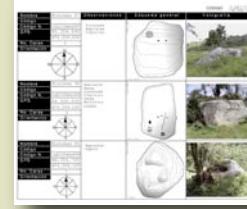
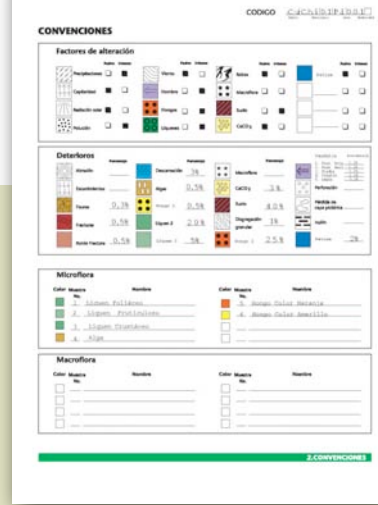
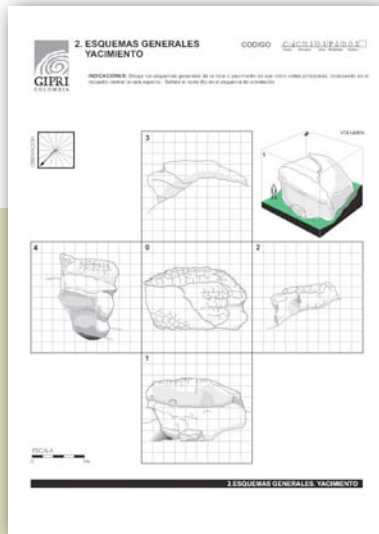
number of sites (1500 approximately), which are distributed in different paths.

The exact location of the sites, the way they fit into the landscape, and the density of the petroglyphs and pictographs, are information that makes it easier to ask new questions during the investigations relating to the spatial composition and in relationship to its meaning and function in its related culture

The International Rock Art Seminar-Workshop during 18th-29th July, 2012 includes:-Food (standard) and housing in the Rural places Sites: El Colegio area and, Sutatausa township.

Accommodation, food, publications and work materials are included in the cost per person of € 390.00, or U.S. \$ 500.

Pre registration / registration at :gipricolombia@hotmail.com



Activities and general program The Rock Art Investigation Seminar-Workshop is focused on an intensive introductory course within a larger program to be planned and expanded upon to train new investigators. During each future workshop session various aspects of the program will be amplified, but during the initial course the emphasis will be on generalities.

Registration methods -The attendees will be shown the registration method used in Colombia for the visual description of rock art sites, the description of the rock art motifs, the composition of the substrata, and its location in the zone, all used as a basis for various aspects of the registration system (Methodological Model).

Theoretical problems regarding resource material -This theme will mention recent

international publications that summarize the various current debates. The group will show the attendees the available texts presented during various international presentations, where objections about traditional interpretations will be presented concerning the meaning and function of rock art. This discussion will focus on the historical objections regarding chronological-stylistic systems and traditional rock art classifications.

-A general bibliography will be distributed during the seminar, along with information regarding the registry topic, and interpretations such international as national rock art. This material will be in the form of printed General Program

19-21 July. Field trip and registration at El Colegio (Petroglyphs).

22-24 July. Office work in Bogota. Visit the Gold Museum, National Museum, Archaeological Museum and downtown of the city

25-27 July. Field trip to Sutatausa township, (Pictographs)).

The attendees will participate in all the activities, in small groups to be assigned different tasks that will be presented at the end of the workshop on 28th July. The leaders of the each group will present a summary of their works, and also will present their proposals for the future: Publications, International bulletins, Continuity of the themes, New processes and registry systems, etc.

After each of the day long field trips, there will be discussion seminars and conferences about Archaeology, Rock Art in

Colombia and in other parts of the world (Italy, Chile, Canada and India).

Other topics of discussion:

- New technologies and processes of the registration in Sutatausa and El Colegio, the zones worked.
- History of Investigation.
- Methodological proposals
- Studies of alterations and conservation in the study zones
- Methods of digital manipulation

The materials and texts produced will be submitted to discussion during these final sessions and will accompany the final publicized versions.