

# Dark Caves – Bright Visions

## Ice Age Cave Painting of France and Spain



Signed presentation proof reproducing the 'Three cows and Chinese horses' of Lascaux

### Introduction

By painting and etching on cave walls, our prehistoric ancestors captured their ice age perceptions of life. In doing so, they didn't realize those ideas would endure for more than 400 succeeding generations; it was the dawn of art.

Thousands of animal, human and geometric shapes grace the caves of France and Spain. These images are the earliest examples of life portraits. They have remained hidden from our modern techno-religious societies for thousands of years and only through chance encounters are they brought to light.

Broad scenes on irregular rock surfaces lend three dimensions to animals, bringing them to life. Modern observers marvel and feel strangely in tune with an early environment while haunting images stir imaginations - as perhaps the artist fully intended. The exhibit focuses on the prehistoric cave painting and etching (parietal art) produced between 33 thousand and 10 thousand years ago during the European ice ages by Cro-Magnon man in southern France and northern Spain.

### Plan

#### 1. Prehistoric Exposé

- 1.1 *Discovery* Mistaken origins
- 1.2 *The True Artist* Talents come of age
- 1.3 *Tools of the Trade* Making it happen

#### 2. Art Sites

- 2.1 *Chauvet* by approximate age,
- 2.2 *Ardèche* oldest to youngest
- 2.3 *Pech-Merle*
- 2.4 *Rouffignac*
- 2.5 *Altamira*
- 2.6 *El Pindal*
- 2.7 *Covalanas*
- 2.8 *Tito Bustillo*
- 2.9 *El Castillo*
- 2.10 *Lascaux*
- 2.11 *Bara Bahau*
- 2.12 *Font-de-Gaume*
- 2.13 *Niaux*

#### 3. Study and Preservation

- 3.1 *Research* Historians
- 3.2 *Purpose* The why behind the art
- 3.3 *Influence* Picasso, Miro, Disney
- 3.4 *Museums* Preservation and display

*Scarcer items are matted gold on red*