



General view of the permanent exhibition in the Interpretation Centre. © Héctor Santos Díez.



Panoramic view of the recreation of the Bronze Age settlement. © J. Manuel Rey.

TOWARDS AN INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT OF GALICIAN PETROGLYPHS: THE ROCK ART ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK (CAMPO LAMEIRO, PONTEVEDRA) AS AN EXPERIENCE

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RIASSUNTO

Situata nella parte più occidentale del continente europeo, la Galizia presenta uno dei massimi repertori di incisioni rupestri a cielo aperto. Migliaia di enigmatici disegni geometrici affiancano pannelli figurativi con animali, scene di caccia, cavalieri e combattimenti, offrendoci scorci di una realtà passata che siamo ancora in grado di comprendere.

Queste manifestazioni culturali, di straordinario valore universale, devono essere conservate per il futuro, attraverso iniziative di sviluppo e conservazione. In questo articolo presentiamo le linee guida strategiche del Rock Art Archaeological Park (Campo Lameiro, Pontevedra, Spagna), un'iniziativa che gode del sostegno pubblico, finalizzata alla ricerca, conservazione e diffusione delle incisioni rupestri della Galizia.

Signs in stone

Thousands of years ago, our ancestors left behind signs of their social action in Galicia through a multitude of enigmatic figures carved onto rocks and scattered throughout the landscape. Cup marks and circular combinations are the main motifs, although other geometric designs are frequently found, such as spirals, labyrinths, reticulated figures or tri-skeles. These figures frequently share panels with figurative motifs such as deer and horses, human figures, idols and daggers, swords and halberds.

Some of these images are combined to create even more complex compositions. Many of them feature deer as the main figures, showing animals in lines crossing through the territory, or show typical stances from the mating season. In others, animals and humans form hunting and riding scenes, in which it seems that special emphasis has been placed on the dominance of culture over the wildest aspects of nature.

With the passing of time, the meaning of these images has been lost forever. Today we deduce that for several millennia they were used as marks in the landscape, and at the same time as a graphic system to store, transmit and recover information in relation to the social and natural world that gave them meaning.

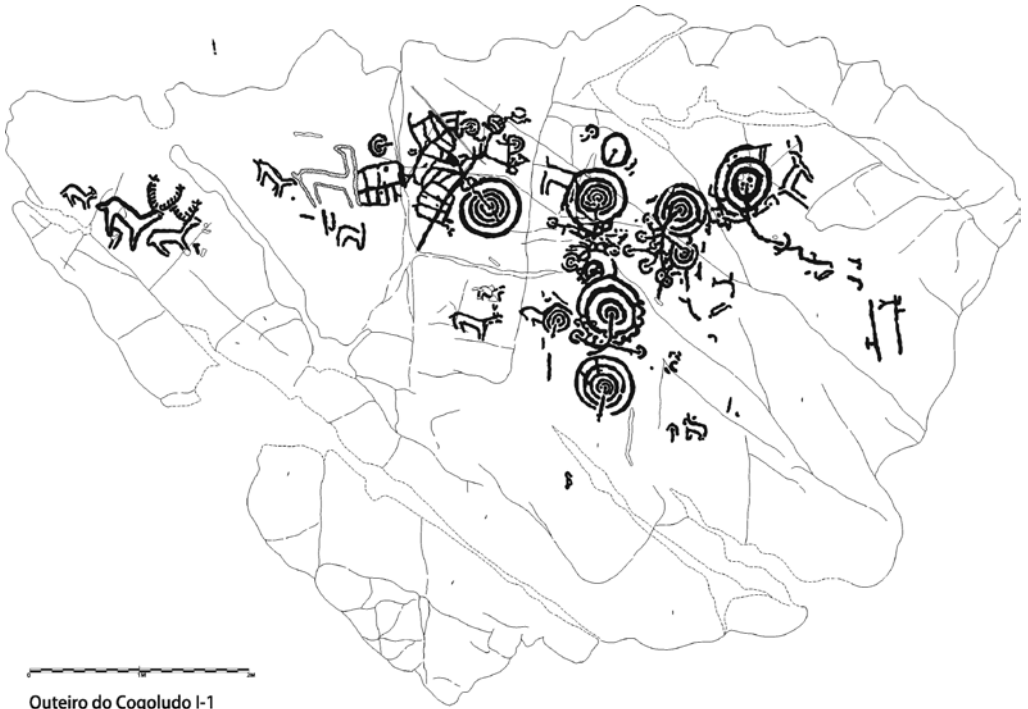
Conserving the memory

Created with the intention of lasting over time, the petroglyphs have been constantly re-interpreted by different human groups from the past until the present day, transforming their meaning and being used for purposes their creators in all certainty would never have imagined.

Modern-day society has turned these enigmatic signs into monuments, into fragments of memory that must be conserved for the enjoyment of future generations. For this reason, the experience of viewing the petroglyphs must be extended to society at large, and not reserved for a select, privileged group. But also for this reason, their presentation to the



Laxe dos Carballos, a spectacular petroglyph inside the Archaeological Park. ©Xoan Piñón.



Outeiro do Cogoludo I-1

Tracing of the large panel of Outeiro dos Cogoludos I, inside the Archaeological Park. © PAAR.

public must be subordinate to the conservation of their figures and the social landscape in which they were produced.

The Rock Art Archaeological Park (in Campo Lameiro, Pontevedra) is the response by Galicia's cultural administration to this growing social demand. This cultural installation, created as a public service, is intended to generate an integral management model that combines the conservation, research and dissemination of Galicia's petroglyphs, and which is based on four main concepts:

1. Petroglyphs and the social landscape. Based on paleoenvironmental information, the Park has been returned to a similar appearance as it would have had in the past, creating an open landscape in which it is possible to observe the relationships of intervisibility between the petroglyphs and their spatial links with peat bogs, natural lines of transit and areas of human activity.

2. Creating intelligent leisure. The Park offers modern exhibition installations which are both intellectually suggestive and visually attractive, combining rigorous contents, experiences and emotions. The exhibition is not aimed at specialists, but instead at the general public, with the aim of transmitting ideas and stimuli that make their visit an entertaining, didactic and intellectually enriching experience.

3. A journey through time: A recreation of a small settlement from the Bronze Age gives visitors the chance to relate the inert archaeological remains to ways of life and daily scenes of ancient human groups. It also makes it possible to provoke emotions in the public and create didactic contents in extra-academic contexts, contributing to the dissemination of archaeological knowledge.

4. A factory for the production of expert knowledge. The creation of the Park has occurred in an international context in which there is a proliferation of different incentives for the responsible management of rock art. As a centre of reference for the conservation and study of Galician petroglyphs, it focuses on the transfer of knowledge, critical debate, and the exchange of experiences and know-how with other institutions and professionals with which it shares a concern for the future of our rock carvings.

The main beneficiaries of this cultural and educational offer will be the scientific community and schools, but also the local population, as the park will contribute towards increasing their quality of life, generating possibilities for sustainable development in a rural area.