LADAKHI ROCK **ART** VISUAL CHRONOLOGY / ladakhi rock art visual chronology

> During Prehistory, no engraving can be positively identified. In the rest of Central Asia, depictions of hands and feet are considered to be from this period, though these motifs could also have been depicted later as well. For the other kind of motifs (animals, humans, etc.), so far we have not been able to distinguish any stylistic feature that would allow us to differentiate representations from this period from those of later periods, but it does not mean that figures other than hands and feet were not represented during the Prehistory.

> Animals from the Bronze Age are typically depicted with a body that is rectangular or bi-triangular. Tails ending with a ball are also characteristic of this period.

> It is in the Bronze Age that we find the most representations of humans, either on their own or in hunting or fighting scenes, sometimes in duels. In such scenes, the paths of the arrows are depicted all along from the bow to the target. Beside this, the weapon that we find only during this period is the mace. Humans typically have triangular or bi-triangular bodies. Some have a head that is mushroomshaped, which we don't find before or after this period. And only then we find giants, that is to say engravings of humans that are larger than human size. The last anthropomorphic figure specific of that time are masklike representations, called "mascoids". Their significance; i.e. what they actually represent, is still obscure. In the symbols, circles and glasses are also specific of that time.

> During the Iron Age, a new particular style flourishes, called the Animal Style or Art of the Steppes. In this art, zoomorphic representations are by far favored. Originating in the steppes of Central Asia this art is characterized by zoomorphic representations represented in a style recognizable at first glance with rounded bodies ornamented with scrolls and standing like on the tip of the hoofs. Humans are totally ignored: so far only one possible representation of this art has been found in all of Ladakh. Animals are also often decorated with an "S", that can also be found by itself, either as a simple S or as a more elaborate ornament.

> Beside this Animal Style, other scenes were depicted in simpler ways that make them impossible to distinguish from scenes carved in other periods. Only a few could be identified as being from the Iron Age, as for example fighters using war hammers, a weapon archaeologically associated with this period in the rest of Central Asia.

> Proportionally, representations of the Art of the Steppes are really not numerous: they count for only 1% of all engravings.

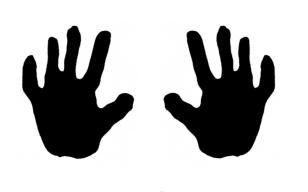
The beginnings of Historical Times are not well defined in Ladakh. They seem to coincide with the introduction of Buddhism in the area, of which the dating is still under discussion. For anthropomorphic and zoomorphic representations no new style emerged, making it impossible to identify engravings of humans and animals from this period.

As such, the only figures that can be positively dated from the Historical Times are the symbols and monuments derived from Buddhism, the chortens being the most common and the most representative of them.

A few hunting scenes can also be dated from this period, when cavaliers use rifles. But other than that, no stylistic feature distinguishes these scenes from others made in the Bronze Age or in the Iron Age.

PREHISTORY / prehistory

symbols /



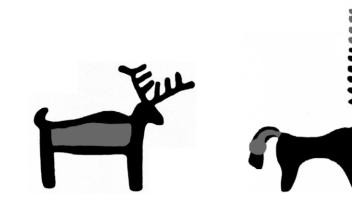


BRONZE AGE / bronze age

animals /

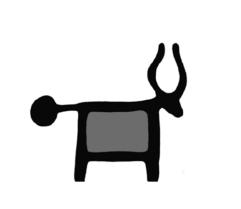
SCENES / SCENES





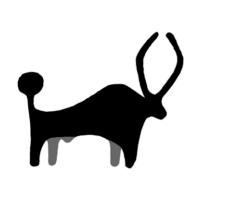


Blue sheep



The body is rectangular, the tail is ending with a ball.

A CARAGO



The hump is represented, the tail



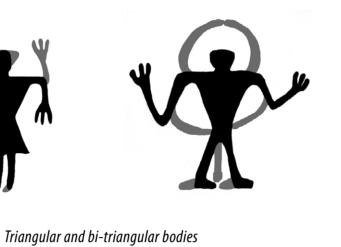




Weapons / Weapons

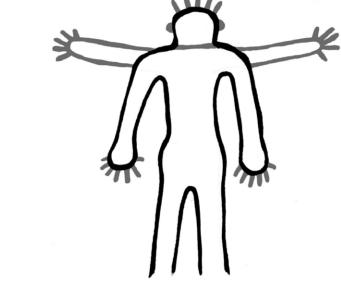
Mascoids /

ORNAMENTS /



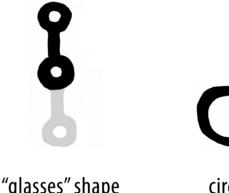


Mushroom-shaped head









वर्या दे.पीय.वु.मू.स.दे.लुय.चुर.चिक.मू। ट.म्टर.क्टरनेक.चिक.मु.क्ट्या ध्याक. <u>५७२-५७२-५८-५</u>०-४वाय-गुद-५-५य-थे-धेद-देव

<u>র্ব'বের্</u>র'অন্বা স্থান্ন-নির্মান্ত স্থান্ন স্থান্ दे-र्रेदेन्दरराञ्चरगुद्र-सेसस्य उदादी गाञ्जगस्य दरररायसूद्र गुर्स्सर विन्वर्डे में खेरी प्यवे मुब्द द्वरायमें द्धमार है। क्षु गुद सेसरा उद दे मार्चमार से दर यान्वर्द्धा र्वेनाञ्चेतर्द्धम्यान्देर्यार्थर्द्धाः विद्वर्देन वेरगुद्धाः वेर्ने लुष्र्यूचा रचा.म.क्ष्या.म.ज.र्चेयाभायार.सूतु.बर.स.। दु.क्ष्याभाभाःम्ब्राचाङ्गाङ्गाः 5्5'दर्बे:गुद्र'ययर'स्रर'केय'S'5्रप्सहस्रार्थे'ग्राबन'र्से:र्बेस् दे.च्.्र्य.प्र. प्रच्या ५८,प्र. प्रत्या तर्थे. स्ट.ज्या तर्थे. २८.५मूद्र.यम्.क्र.गीय.लय.तत्र.लट.लम्.मूट.क्रूट.गीय. वयर:श्च[°]शॅर:ब्रेंश:हे:थॅर:यर्ग বা-রুপ-লেম-2প-জুই-এবি-জ-বসুপ-পানব-এবি-ইমpa.gal.±૨.જૈવોજા.જી.ર્ટીજા.જી.જી.જી.સ.કૂ.સ્તુંજા. वर्षा रेन्रेस्त्रा रेन्नयाम्, क्र्यास्त्राच्याः क्रे व्हिर्द्याः क्रायान्या व्यरास्त्रे त्यात्रः वाबिरःगोयःजवरः। ४.५र्येशः हे.५६८ स्तावयः र्टरः पर्यं जः यतुः सक्क्ष्यः क. हे.र्थः स्र. त्रुवः इन्दर्भः मर्वे स्रुगुरु दे । पया सर में बिया से ५ मा से दिया है गुरु न में स মানব:বি:নক্ক্য:ক:বাইবা:ঐব:ব্রিবা

र्के्द्र-अर्क्ट्रेद्र-अदे:नुअ:शे:नर्जे्र्अ:नेर्अ:गुद्र-देश-वहेंद्र-गुअ:अर्देग के:ने:पवे:ग्विट:

लुब वर्ज्ञा दे स्ट्रेह्र अववर व्रेश हे जूर वर्ज्ञा र्र वर्ज्ञ रहे अ वेश

गुद्रायान्यस्थाने र्श्वेदायान्दानेदाया वेदाने यो स्वाद्याना स्वाद्यान्यान्द्रा

য়ৢঢ়৻৴৵৻৻৻ৼয়য়ৣৼ৻য়য়৻ঽয়৻ঽৼ৻ড়৻৸য়ৢ৻ঽয়৻য়ৄঀ৻য়ঢ়৻৴য়৻ঀয়৻য়৻ড়৻

क्रॅ्र-ख्रमान्विन्दरक्षानक्किते क्रॅ्र्य अदेन्त्रभाशे न्यराया यु नविन्देर में द्राराया नविन्देर में

बेन्-स-रे-मेंश्र-हे-स-स-रेव्य-तु-रे-में आपव-गुव-वर्ने-नुश्व-श्रे-पोव-वर्मे। वेदे-नुश्व-वर्मे।

गुद्रादेशक्रियाचीहरानुस्य अराद्रावहरसार्के चाहरसाम्द्राचीहरसाने स्वार्थ

वर्या स्मिन्धान्तेन्त्रानिक्षामात्तर्या दे.क्ष्याकाक्षात्रस्या वर्षामान्त्रमानुदेशमान्त्रमा

त्र्या-भार्द्धवान्यन्वसूत्र-हे-प्रेट्-वर्त्व दे-र्च-स्रद्या दे-र्न्-भार्श्व-व्या-क्र-र्न्च्या-हे-प्रेट-

र्डे ग्रम्भ से सर्वे द्वेस हे प्रेंट वर्षा दे रेडें ग्रम गृत वेत दे दे र स व स हे सर्वेट ट से

वर्ष रे.हेर.व.कुव.स्.र.लूर.वर्ष श्रुव.क्रर.रे.बर.कुव.श्रुब.हे.लूर.वर्ष रे.

श्चे-ग्राद्याद्वे याञ्चयाश्चार्या याश्चार्या स्टेयायान्यास्यः

व्यवान्यवे वाञ्चवार्याञ्चेरान्त्रात्र स्ट्रॅव्यायवे याचे व्यव्याच्या चेत्र चुन्य चेत्र सेत् व्यव्याच्या व्यव्य

दशस्परः यादशः शःग्रादः यः महः सः दहः यया संदे या श्रुवाशः श्रेशः अध्यदः ग्रुवः हे : रु शःशः

यःर्वाश्वःत्यः क्रुं सुशःशुःरुशः वर्षोः त्रुवाः क्रःशान्त्रः वाश्वयः सं विवाः सेर्पः यो वर्षे व वरःक्रेंशःक्षेत्रःयः दरः त्रायक्ष्यः स्वायः भेवाः धेवः वेवाः वयः वेवाः धेवः वेवाः चेरः ग्रुयः इ.मूर्यायक्रें र.मूर्यायात्र्रात्रे त्रात्रेया के.भीयात्रात्रेटार्ट्यात्राचीयायात्रायटा ट.चर्ष्ट्रब.चे.स.स्.स्.स.चुवा.वयुट.क्रे.स.स्व. टे.र्थ.वया.स्.स.स.स.स.स्.च्या.वी. र्नभवसम्पर्नः सम्बन्धे माञ्चमार्थः गुवा वरः क्रिंभवसः गुरः नवे हेव प्रम्मार्थः गुवः यर्केन्द्रेव कर्म संवेद्ये वीरमा निरमान्य मार्च निरमान्य में देवा निरम से स्थित हैं न इ.स.ग्राय.वेश.धे.सयो.तवी.स.स्वर.लूर.इ.लुय.ह्या डे.स्.सय.सी वहे.ह्यां स.स. अव्रदःश्रदः स्प्रदः सदेः या त्रुवाशः देश श्रीवाः शेः वर्त्तवाः श्रूः श्रीवेः वर्त्तेः देशः स्था देव वर्त्तेः २.श.च्.व.बॅ.क्र्याश.चक्रेय.क्षेय.वेश.लुय.<u>व</u>्या

रे-ब्रॅन्ट्र्स-ब्राह्मसर्वेजाप्वेयाकी-गा-वरीट-ब्रेन्ट्रे-वेर्स्स-ब्राह्मसःयीदार्वेज वीदेः लियार्थेया रहे देश कराया या होता समाने विकास के समाने का हो साम के स्थान के समाने के समान के समाने के समाने समाने समाने समाने समाने समाने के समाने समान समान के समान समान समान समान समा <u>५८.२म.माञ्चमश्राप्तां सेयत्र श्रादे तुरु सम्हर् रे प्येद हें म</u>्रे क्वर हे र हे प्यरूश <u> ५८:अर:हेब:सर:शेवरा</u>

IRON AGE / Iron age

animals /

scenes

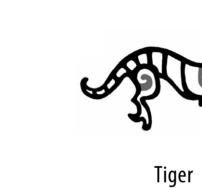




In fighting and hunting scenes the paths of the arrows are depicted











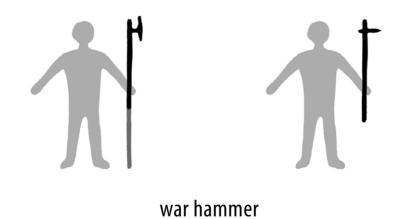




hand mace



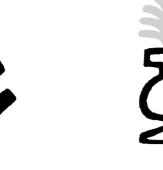




HISTORICAL TIMES / historical

buddhist symbols /

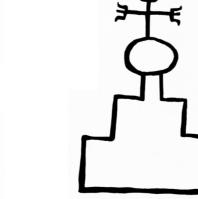


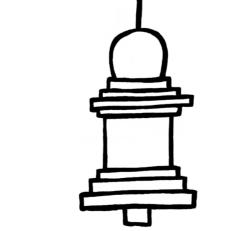


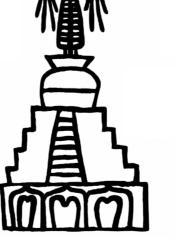






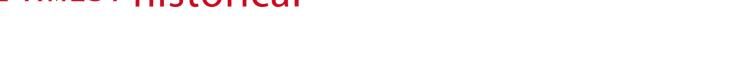














Feline chasing a deer









chortens /

