

An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta

Reviews

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negotiating counter-gift. This clearly links related ritual spheres to each other, challenging our own modern categorization of the world. Judging from this and the other thought-provoking case studies that are presented in *Materialitas*, this seems to be a research field that needs to be revisited with great care and an open mind.

Many more papers in this anthology deserve to be mentioned, all supporting the conclusion that 'stone rocks'. I found

myself absorbed by reading this well-composed anthology. If you are interested in exploring what a good interpretative archaeology could or ought to look like, some two decades after its inception, I suggest that you put *Materialitas* on your 'must-read' list.

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Robin Skeates, *An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, 287 pp., 72 figs., hbk, ISBN 978-0-19-921660-4)

In *An Archaeology of the Senses*, Robin Skeates invites archaeologists to activate a fuller range of their bodily senses not only to interpret the archaeological past but also to communicate ideas about that past to others. Archaeologists – like most scholars – privilege their sense of vision to record, interpret, and communicate. They read and write texts, observe spatial patterning, peer into microscopes, draw maps, take photographs, and engage their mental encyclopedia of visual imagery to identify artifacts, bones, or features. In the field, they might engage their sense of touch when rubbing sediments between their fingers to determine when a new level has been reached, or to discern whether an object is bone, ceramic, or stone. Phenomenological approaches have similarly privileged sight but also heightened attention to proprioception – the position and movement of human bodies – to generate innovative interpretations of the past. But for various philosophical reasons, the non-visual senses, including smell, taste, hearing, touch, and emotions – have been marginalized in the archaeological project. Skeates argues, however, that our understanding of the past is diminished when we fail to engage our

senses to interpret the past and demonstrates how much richer our understanding of the past might be if we were to consider the senses in our work. *An Archaeology of the Senses* reminds us that, as archaeologists, we not only study people of the past, but embodied people of the past.

To illustrate his point, Skeates takes us on a provocative – and evocative – survey of the archaeology of Neolithic through Early Bronze Age Malta. A valuable addition to the growing literature in sensual culture studies, this book can be read in two ways. First, it can be used as an overview and history of archaeological research in Malta dating to the Early Neolithic through the Early Bronze Age/Tarxien Cemetery Phase. Skeates presents and analyzes current thinking on the settling of the Maltese Islands during the Early Neolithic (5200–4400 BC), the nature of the settlers' relationship to their homeland in Sicily, the significance of the famous temples and artwork of the Temple Period (3400–2500 BC), and the sociopolitical transformations that occurred around 2400 BC, at the beginning of the Tarxien Cemetery Phase. But this book can also be read as an experimental narrative that

Part 1 critically explores the history of prehistoric archaeology in Malta and its prioritising of the sense of sight at the expense of the other human senses. Abstract. This chapter critically synthesizes the growing literature relating to the archaeology of the senses and situates it in the light of the. Skeates takes us on a provocative and evocative survey of the archaeology of Neolithic through Early Bronze Age Malta. A valuable addition to the growing. An Archaeology of the Senses. Prehistoric Malta. Robin Skeates. Explains and focuses on the up and coming field of sensual culture studies. Download citation An Archaeology of th An Archaeology of the Senses. Prehistoric Malta. By Skeates Robin. mm. Pp , 37 figs. Robin Skeates, An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, , pp., 72 figs., hbk. An Archaeology of the Senses. Prehistoric Malta. By Robin Skeates. mm. Pp , 37 figs. Oxford: Oxford University Press, An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta by Robin Skeates and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at. Douglass Bailey, Alasdair Whittle, and Daniela Hofmann, eds, Living Well Together? Settlement and Materiality in the Neolithic of South-East. Book Review: An Archaeology of the Senses - Prehistoric Malta by Robin Skeates: [News and Comments:1] As the title makes clear, this book. be read as an experimental narrative that. Robin Skeates, An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, In this generously illustrated book Robin Skeates establishes a well-defined methodology for an archaeology of the senses, produces a challenging new. An archaeology of the senses: prehistoric Malta by Robin Skeates An archaeology of the senses: prehistoric Malta. by Robin Skeates. Print book. English. Despite the fundamental importance of the senses in human experience, archaeologists have, until recently, tended to neglect the abundant sensory dimensions. Type: Book; Author(s): Skeates, Robin; Date: ; Publisher: Oxford University Press; Pub place: Oxford; ISBN ; ISBN Good. Ships with Tracking Number! INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE Shipping available. May not contain Access Codes or Supplements. May be. An archaeology of the senses: prehistoric Malta. xvi+ pages, 35 illustrations. Oxford: Oxford University Press; PUBLICATIONS Existing Books An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. This book aims to establish a. Booktopia has An Archaeology of the Senses, Prehistoric Malta by Robin Skeates. Buy a discounted Hardcover of An Archaeology of the Senses online from. For well over a century the study of Maltese prehistory has been dominated by the .. Skeates, R. [] An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta. Oxford. Author: Robin Skeates. An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta. Title: An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta. of pages: Publish date.

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