

CELTIC ARTS IN CONTEXT. CONNECTING OBJECTS, FUNCTIONS AND PEOPLE

Paper session at the 21st Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, 2-5 September 2015, Glasgow (United Kingdom)

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The aim of this session is to discuss the very large body of items made of different materials considered as Iron Age art as a means of communicating identity in its broadest sense and therewith forming regional and social patterns. In contrast to traditional, strictly object-oriented approaches, we would like to analyse Celtic art from a contextual and functional point of view, focusing on the people who used ornamented objects and their purposes for doing so. During the Iron Age, decorated items produced across Europe were certainly not purely aesthetic objects, but a means to negotiate, maintain and reproduce social patterns, and therefore belonged to an active, variable and dynamic phenomenon more than a static, linear and homogeneous one. The most puzzling aspect of the process that we would like to explore is how interrelated objects and images helped connecting people with similar social needs across the Continent.

From a chronological point of view, the main focus is on the evolution of Celtic art from the late sixth to the first centuries BC and the parallel changes observed in the societies that produced it - falling into three broad periods: the late sixth and fifth centuries, the fourth and third centuries and the second and early first century BC. This approach is mainly focussed on the La Tène world, but papers from neighbouring areas (Iberian Peninsula, Eastern Europe) and close chronologies (Hallstatt and Roman periods) are also welcome.

Contributions dealing with the following issues are expected, but not limited to:

- Art and society in the Iron Age: production, consumption and deposition contexts
- Objects and image networks and circulation
- Celtic art, social agency and performance
- Perception manipulation and “technologies of enchantment”
- Styles and identities at regional and continental scales
- Iron Age art in the La Tène world, its connections to “marginal” and neighbouring regions

Call for papers: 19 December 2014 – 16 February 2015

Submit a proposal [Celtic connections theme]: <http://eaaglasgow2015.com/call-for-papers/>