



a natural state

Petroglyphs

Video 3: Meaning

Man sitting in front of petroglyph: On this site we've got twenty-nine distinct carvings. We give a number to anything that's separated from another carving. If it's a complex of carvings joined together, they get one number; but if there're two simple carvings apart, they each one get their own number. So we have twenty-nine on this particular site.

This particular one...it's kind of strange. This is the only site we found this. This is one of two sites in South Carolina that we found that have stick figures of the human form. There's one site in Laurens County that has one single figure. We have eighteen on this one rock.

Four of these human figures are enclosed in little boxes. Exactly what that means, we don't know. We don't know whether that indicates some form of jailing, housing, temple, big person in the tribe that was in a...in a special situation. We have no way of knowing that.

But I can tell you that the sites that we have recorded on, say, on the high mountain peaks, the walls up high and the sites down low, like this one, they're totally different. Up high, we get a lot of circles. Occasionally, they'll have sunbursts, like radiating lines out from them; occasionally, a, a square or a triangle. But the preponderance of carvings there are just simple circles. Usually they're much more boldly carved than these in the lowlands.

The lowlands, we get a wealth of abstract forms...very few circles. That has to tell you something. At this point, we don't know exactly what it's telling us, but it's, it's telling us that these people were thinking differently in different places or at different times, you know?

Each site has its personality, and whether that reflects the thinking of or the mindset of a particular people at that particular time and place, or whether that place required a different way of thinking from the same people, we don't know. And I don't think we'll ever know.