

Re: Cave sculptures go on display for first time in 15,000 years

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- *From:* Day Brown <[daybrown@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:daybrown@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
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First painting, and now sculpture; is it any wonder white people think their race is superior?

Its not as if realism was impossible for Africans.

<http://www.africadirect.com/productsdesc.php?ID=18425> and <http://www.flickr.com/photos/avmoblely/page5/> shows us some of the 12th century Yoruba work from Ife. In the middle ages, Ife in Benin was doing portraiture better than anyone in Europe at the time.

But then, the power structure collapsed, and they all went back to the usual 'primitive' art. And in France we see modern realism going on in the paleolithic.... which then disappears, only to re-emerge later, fall with Rome, and then arise yet again in the Renaissance.

The ongoing work of Ramachandran on the occipital lobes suggests there are neurological reasons for this that are written in the DNA. Whether this is "superior" is a matter of your artistic sensibilities. i've raised cattle, and was struck by the powers of observation shown in the last image. Those are not the legs of cows or bulls, but yearlings whose feet do not yet have to support the massive weight, and so because of the tendons, tend to walk on "tippy toes".

This attention to detail led to a host of innovations.

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