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Lee: *The Portable Cosmos: Effigies, Ornaments, and Incised Stone from the Chumash Area*

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REVIEWS

The Portable Cosmos: Effigies, Ornaments, and Incised Stone from the Chumash Area. Georgia Lee. Socorro: Ballena Press Anthropological Papers No. 21. 114 pp.

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The Chumash of the Santa Barbara Channel region have long been famous for their pictographic rock art (Grant 1965; Heizer and Clewlow 1973), but they were also producers of numerous examples of portable art—what French prehistorians would describe as *art mobilier*. The designs used conveyed ritual and social information, and reflected the world view of the Chumash. Georgia Lee, a noted expert on Chumash art (Lee 1977), has both an anthropological and professional artistic background. Most recently, she has been conducting research on the rock art of Easter Island. She combines her extensive knowledge and practical experience with a lucid and stimulating writing style.

Chumash art was an integral part of everyday life. It was not relegated to the remote esoteric position of fine arts in our own culture. In fact, there was no distinction between fine and applied art.

Lee's monograph describes effigies, incised stones, shells, and bone; basketry designs; and inlay work. She demonstrates continuity through time, and relates portable art designs to those in Chumash mural art. Lee finds at least four categories of artistic expression: perceptual expression reflecting perception of the natural world, conceptual expression or "crisis art" reflecting abstract concep-

tualizations, aesthetic expression reflecting inherent artistic values in the artifact, and utilitarian expression related to the use of the object. Design elements in Chumash art are closely related to belief systems. These can be better understood by analyzing the underlying symbolism of the design elements. The book is mandatory reading for anyone interested in the prehistory or ethnography of California and primitive art in general.

REFERENCES

- Grant, Campbell
1965 *The Rock Paintings of the Chumash*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Heizer, Robert F., and C. William Clewlow, Jr.
1973 *Prehistoric Rock Art of California*. (2 Vols.) Ramona: Ballena Press.
- Lee, Georgia
1977 Chumash Mythology in Paint and Stone. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 13:3:1-14.



The Skeletal Biology of CA-ALA-342. Robert Jurmain, editor. Salinas: Coyote Press, 1983, \$5.00 (paper).

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I was pleased to see that circumstances still permit the excavation, analysis, and publication of prehistoric skeletal samples in California. I found the examination of this volume especially rewarding given the current trends in California where the information