

The Dominant Theme

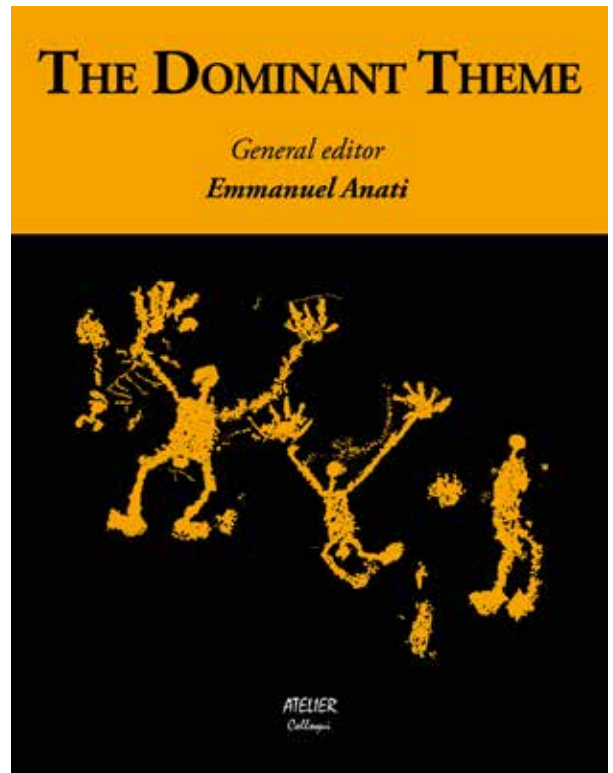
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Like any other style or period of visual art, each assemblage of prehistoric and tribal art has a dominant theme. Some focus on anthropomorphic figures, others on animals, others on signs, symbols or ideograms. Well-known sites of prehistoric art display millenary sequences of different phases showing changes in the dominant theme from one period to another. What is the meaning and function of the dominant theme? Visual expressions are a mirror of the mind and soul of their makers. The dominant theme is one of the factors defining the identity of patterns of visual art. It turns up to be a diagnostic element to define the conceptual, economic and social structure of the artist's society.



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