

### Hidden in plain sight - engaging in the visual construction of European identities and narratives through ancient European script

LEVICK-PARKIN, Melanie <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3925-9792>

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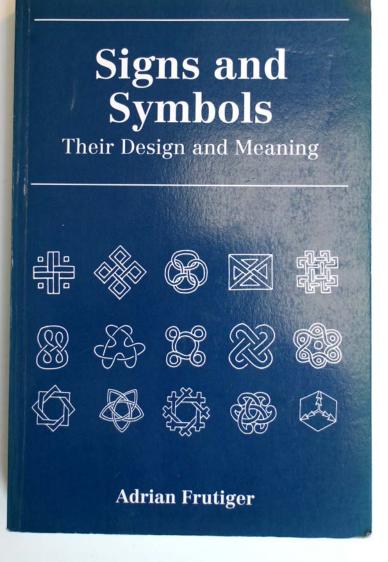
# Welcome

Hidden in plain sight - engaging in the visual construction of European identities and narratives through ancient European script.

Practice-led / Design thinking methodology

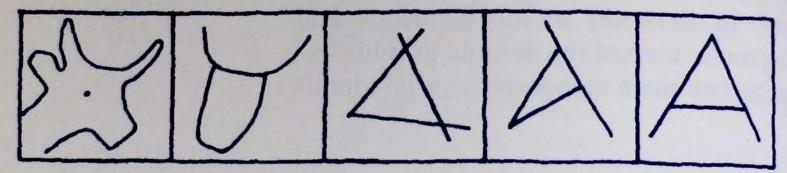
# Discovery - Design - Test - Implement

repeat process iterative process Like visual design, ancient script deals with visual presentation of meaning and is directly relevant in relation to Frutiger's interest in archetypes and Neurath's Isotype collection.



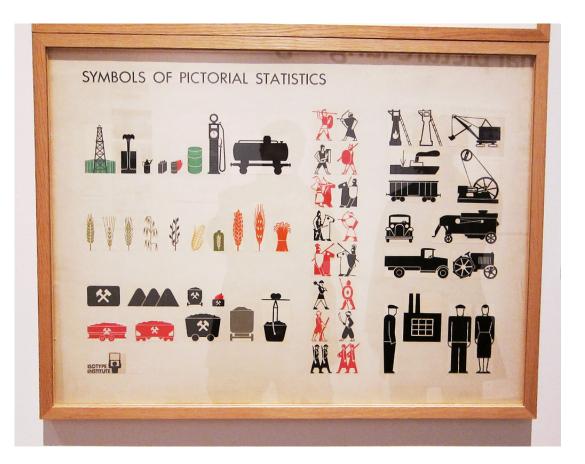
There is obvious affinity between contemporary visual communication design and ancient script because they are based on the same principle of the encoding of meaning to be de-coded by the receiver. and an eye. As the sign develops, the pictorially a nificant parts of the image are left out bit by bit the letter A crystallizes as a pure abstraction.

**Development of Latin characters** 



From the hieroglyph to the modern phonetic character A

114



#### Speech-Fixing Signs

Ox 2000 B.C.

"ru" 1500 в.с.

phological Table 1, square and cross), while open sign with visible stroke endings point to a more abstranless pictorial use of the sign. Five hundred years of a trition changed the drawing of an ox into the syllable sign for "ru."

In Cretan inscriptions, ideograms and syllabicsing In Cretan inscriptions, ideograms and syllabicsing their definitive deciphering has not yet been achieved Since our subject is not linguistics, we restrict our line tration to a few examples of striking signs. It is intereing to contrast the representations of man and woman comparing them further with the signs for robe and amor. Legs hidden by clothing were, from the start the pictorial expression for the womanly. In the warner sign, the robelike shape of the armor is left out in order to express the masculine form clearly. There is also much fascination in the various kinds of representations of animal species (pig, calf, sheep) and in the diversity of statements on the chariot panel from Knossos.

Interpretation of signs from the chariot panel at Knossos (Evans)



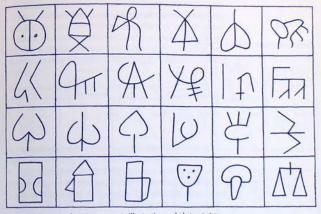
Cretan writing signs have their mysterious effected the viewer because their form implies pictorial statements based on objects, while leaving the uninitiated in complete doubt about the explanatory key. It is probable that the refined pictorial signs assembled here were already largely used as syllabic characters.

Experts still disagree about the extent of influenced Cretan script culture on the Mediterranean region ash whole.

#### III. The Graphic Wealth of Pictograms

At all events, the graphic wealth of Cretan script signs radiates such mental power to the uninitiated as to leave no doubt about the island's cultural value in relation to the mainland.

Pictorial-syllabic script from Crete, 1500 B.C.



The mysterious area between concrete illustration and abstract sign

#### 4. Hethitic pictographic script from Syria

The Hethitic people lived in Syria, on the eastern seaboard of the Mediterranean, in the second millennium s.c. The examples of writing remaining to us from this realm consist of very beautiful, distinguished rows of characters, cut into stone and later scratched into a variety of materials in linear fashion.

It is supposed that the creation of the Hethitic pictographic script was stimulated and influenced both by Egyptian hieroglyphics and by the Mesopotamian cuneiform script of the neighbors on the opposite bank of the Euphrates. A relationship with the Cretan picto118 . Linear B

### 'The tablets are in GREEK'

any of the deciphered words were easily recognizable as an archaic form of Greek. At first Ventris was highly sceptical of this result: like Evans, he was convinced that the Minoan language was unrelated to Greek - related rather to the unknown language of the Etruscans. But over the coming months of 1952-53, Ventris, with the help of John Chadwick, a specialist in early Greek, showed that more and more of the tablets yielded to the 'Greek solution'. It began to seem that the Minoans and the Mycenaeans of mainland Greece had been speaking and writing Greek centuries before Homer.

In mid-1953 - at the same moment that the structure of DNA was decoded and Everest was climbed, by strange coincidence - Linear B was finally cracked beyond reasonable doubt. Confirmation came from a new tablet find, made at ancient Pylos on the Greek mainland by the American archaeologist Carl Blegen. As soon as the tablet had been cleaned, Blegen applied the values worked out by Ventris and Chadwick. Suddenly the mute signs, writing pre-dating the Trojan War, were made to speak after more than three millennia of silence.

ቸ ª	A °	¥í	B °	f" "
<b>⊦</b> da	🛠 de	Ψ <sup>di</sup>	🕈 do	Ħ du
₿ ja	ή <sup>je</sup>		<b>7</b> jo	7nt ju
<b>⊕</b> ka	<b>A</b> ke	ヤ ki	🎙 ko	€ ku
<b>b</b> ma	<b>7•</b> me	V mi	<b>?</b> mo	Y mu
F na	₩ ne	🌱 ni	y no	m 🍳
<b>†</b> pa	<b>E</b> pe	🛨 pi	<b>5</b> po	đ pu
🌳 qa	😨 qe	<b>9</b> qi	<b>4</b> qo	
le ra	Ψ 70	A ri	† 10	۳ ու
¥ sa	<b>µ</b> se	<b>ℋ</b> si	<b>ጘ</b> 30	<b>E</b> <sub>su</sub>
K 1a	r‡ 1e	A u	F to	<b>\$</b> tu
m wa	<b>Z</b> we	<b>d</b> wi	<b>X'</b> 100	
<del>१</del> 20	te ze		<b>4</b> zo	

Above The basic Linear B syllabary.

Left The Pylos tablet that confirmed the decipherment of Linear B, with its transliteration into Greek and translation into English on the opposite page.

### 

tiripode aikeu keresijo weke 2 dipa mewijo tirijowe tripod cauldrons of Cretan workmanship of the (smaller-sized goblet with three handles 1)

(smaller-sized goblet without a handle)

This is not the Greek of Homer, still less the classical Greek of Euripides - as modern English is not the English of Chaucer or Shakespeare. There proved to be nothing of literary value in Linear B: the tablets merely recorded prosaic details of palace administration, such as lists of names and their trades - shepherd, potter, bronzesmith, etc. - and lists of goods. Linear B tells us not one word about the names of kings and the deeds of heroes. But Greek it certainly was, As Ventris remarked at the time, with characteristic modesty, to his former classics master Patrick Hunter:

Not quite the Greek you taught me, l'un afraid! Michael Best makes.



This photograph shows Ventris at the time of the conclusive decipherment of Linear B, mid-1953, He was a superb draughtsman; all the signs on this page and the tablet drawing opposite are his. He was only 34 when he died in a car crash three years later.

In great excitement. Ventris began to apply the sound values in the Linear B grid to unknown words in the tablets. In mid-June 1952 he wrote a letter to the retired professor of ancient history at Oxford University, Sir John Myres, friend of Evans and editor of the Knossos tablets. Ventris admitted: 'though it runs completely counter to everything I've said in the past, I'm now almost completely convinced that the [Linear B] tablets are In GREEK.

aikeu type 2) 3、米川河西町、千丁 「茶 5万日、安日、町日、月入 tiripo eme pode owowe

(tripod cauldron with a single handle on one foot 1)

### 小菜「「茶「小小茶」「「茶」

tiripo keresijo weke (tripod cauldron of Cretan workmanship)

#### TAX OF TO WINY OF TO WINY

apu kekaumeno kerea (burnt at the legs)

OT V"

geto (wine jars 3)

## 5+开国,本个师,丰可

50

dipa mezoe getorowe (larger-sized goblet with four handles 1)

### THA PETA ARBICA So !!

dipae mezoe tiriowee (larger-sized goblet with three handles 2)

SHT@ JAPP IT? 200

dipa mewijo getorowe (smaller-sized goblet with four handles 1)



# Visual Translations of Ancient Heritage

Re-contextualising ancient European script through contemporary visual communication methods and media.

## Linear A Linear B

- The oldest un-deciphered and deciphered scripts in Europe
- Linear A is Minoan and only found on Crete
- Linear B is thought to be the follow on script of Linear A and is Mycenaean script.
- Identified in Knossos Crete by Arthur Evans turn of the century.
- Deciphered by Michael Ventris



## **Dr. Georgia Flouda** Heraklion Archaeological Museum Fellow, Centre for Hellenic Studies Havard University

## Melanie Levick-Parkin Senior Lecturer in Visual Communication

Jonathan Wood Senior Lecturer in

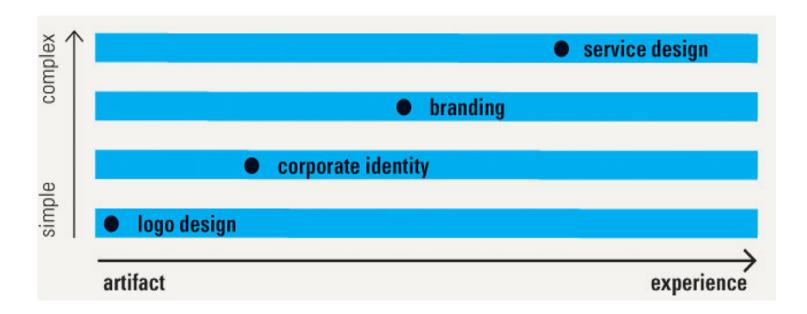
Motion and Multimedia Design

ARDC Art & Design Research Centre Sheffield Institute of Arts Sheffield Hallam University

## The Purpose

of this practice led research project was to apply a design anthropology approach to the visual re-contexualisation of ancient European script, using contemporary visual communication practices and media strategies in order to explore opportunities for creative engagement with archaeological knowledge.

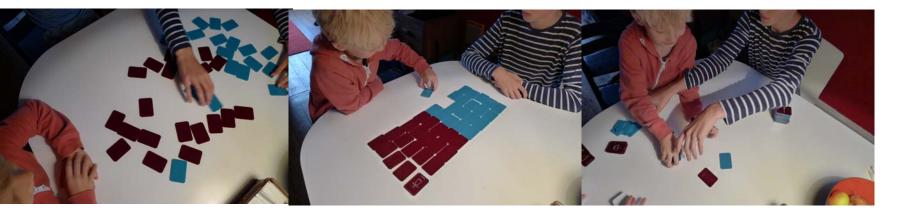
## From Artifact to Experience

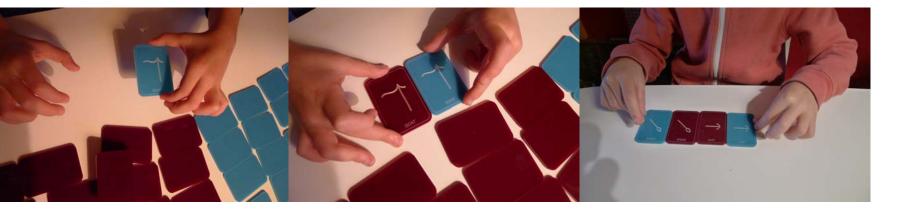


Meredith Davis (2012:208)



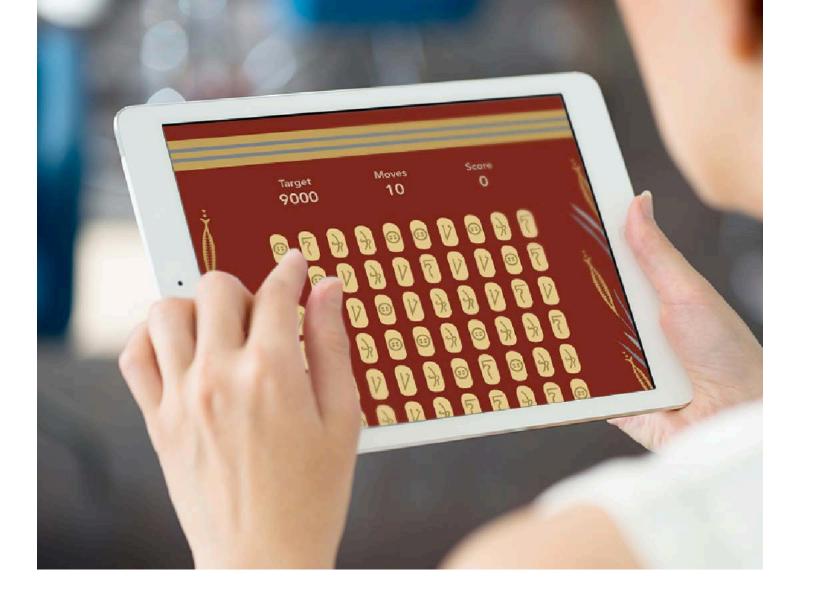


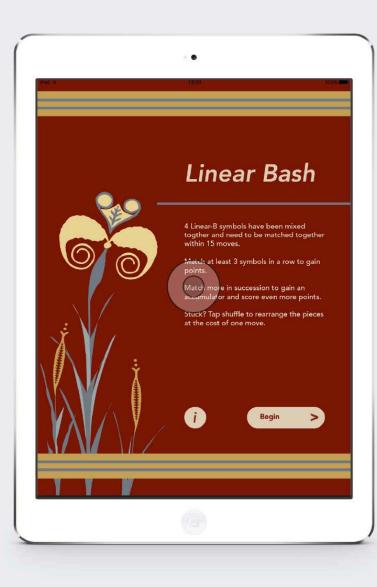


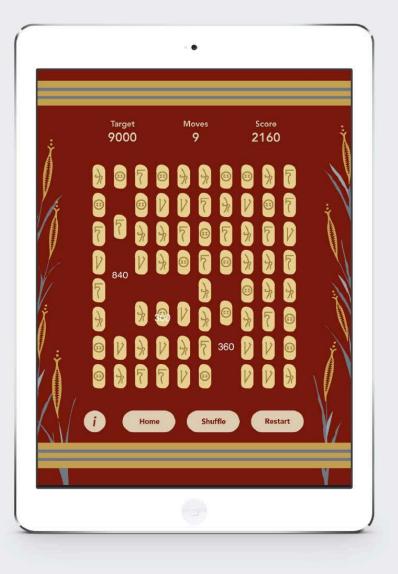












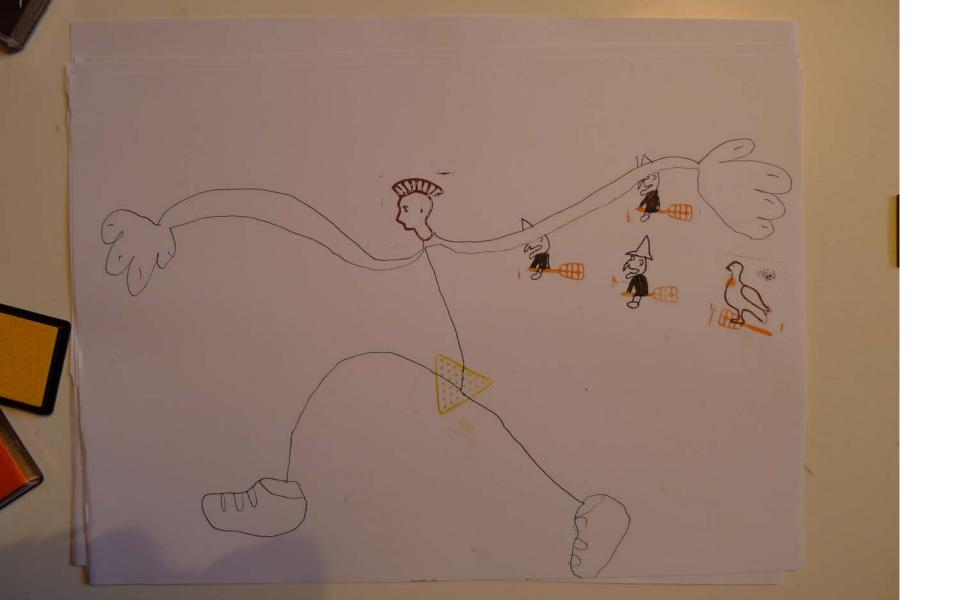












## Observation of Linear B Session

- MA Archaeology University of Sheffield
- Professor John Bennet
- Basement Lab



The MA Archaeology students are here to re-create linear B tablets. In the middle of the table is a big slab of elay and examples of replica tablets produced by John Bennet in previous years. These examples have a variety of shapes, some oblong, some more tablet shaped, and all are full of Linear B inscriptions. The tablets have all been fired and their colour ranges from the light brown of oven fired elay, to the irregular dark brown/ black of elay fired in an open fire as an experiment, to emulate the accidental firing of the originals. Quite few of the tablets are broken.

After the initial welcome and settling down, Angela cuts a piece of clay for every student, while John explain to the students the nature of the task about to be commenced. He asks them to start by creating a piece of table, in any shape they wish and to then transcribe their name in Linear B into the wet clay, using one of the writing instruments provided. He demonstrates the moulding of a sample tablet and writes some instructions for the Linear B script onto the whiteboard.

















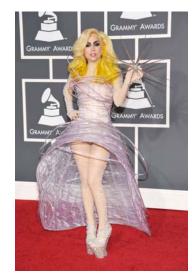


























Language takes its significance of a linguistic expression from embedding the world, - it transforms the world into something that can be thought of and talked about. (Suchman, 2007:77)

## Archaeology

can grant us access to our history by allowing us encounters with remnants of the past, but how these remnants are translated for us, read by us and what we believe that they tell us is intimately tied up with the context of our own contemporary culture.

## NATIONAL ART&DESIGN SATURDAY CLUB





scripts and discuss how their meaning relates to young peoples lives today and how they might be visually presented to make them suitable for todays media environment.

ħ	₩oman	deer	horse	mare	₹₽ station	n 17	°∰ ram	∩∩ nanny goat	°₽ billy goat	₽₽ sow boar
Å	₽́	<del>个</del> wheat	barley	olive oil	spice	Cyprus	€ kapo	kanako	39	the arepa
T meri	户 bronze	No.	M wool	nom hom		법 garment	ârmou	) r mont	tree	Q
footstoo	bethtub	spear	₩— arrow	aword wh	eeled ariot	Charlot	Charlor trame	whe	e dar	⇒ ı

I hereby give permission for my child to participate in and contribute to the ADRC Visual Translations research project 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

Childs name:

Parent/Carer:

## 3 Part Brief

- Working with the script in ink
- Ideas generation for contemporary meaning
- Generating of new symbols in vinyl and perspex





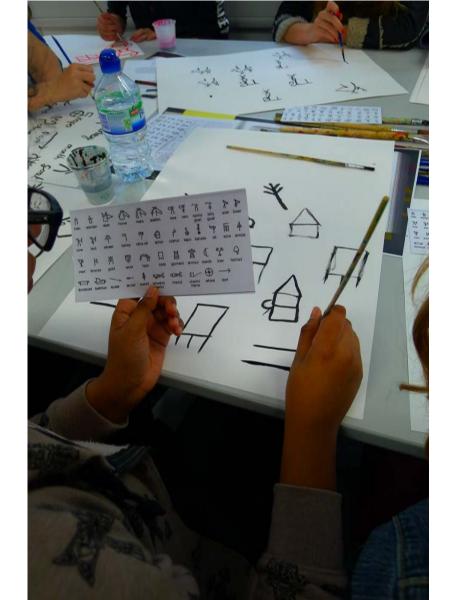




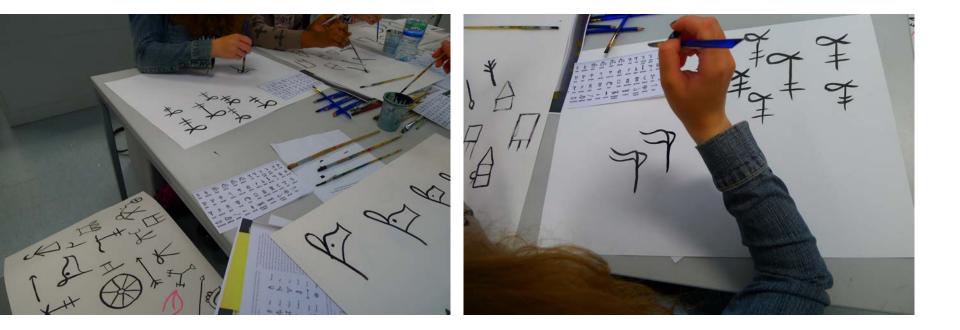


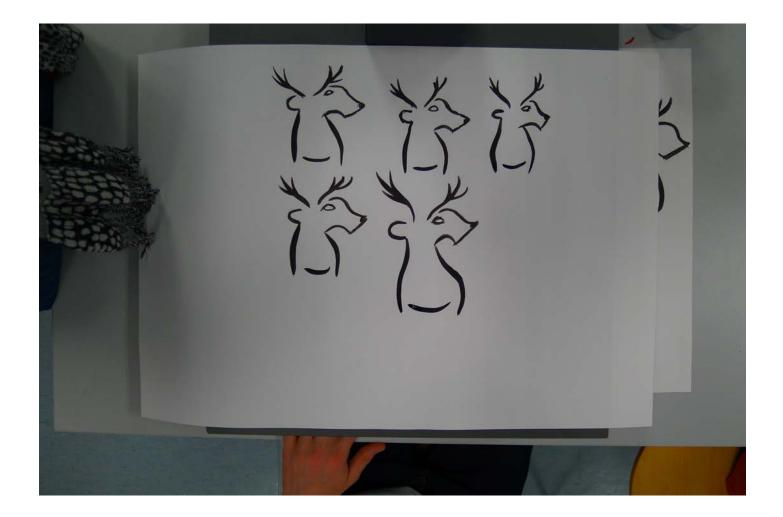


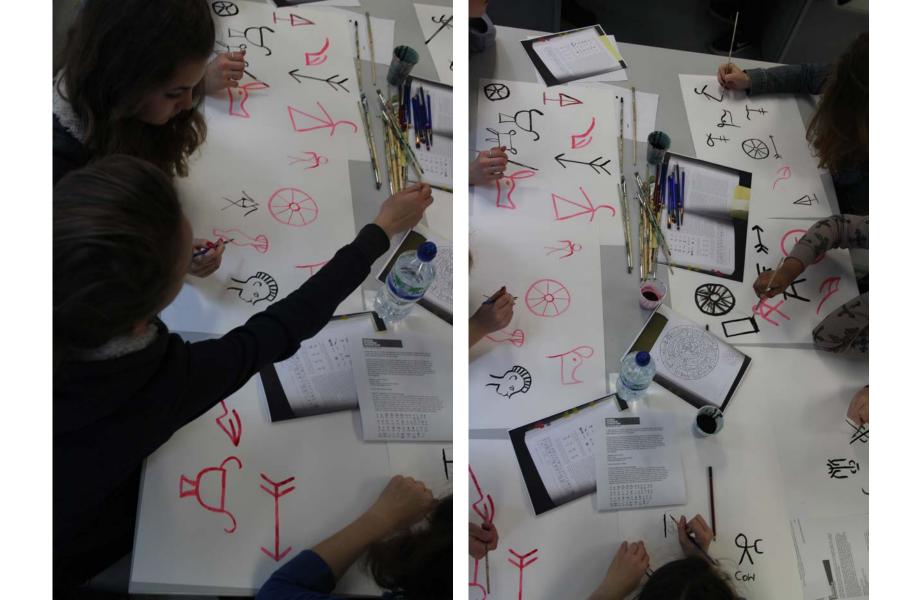




















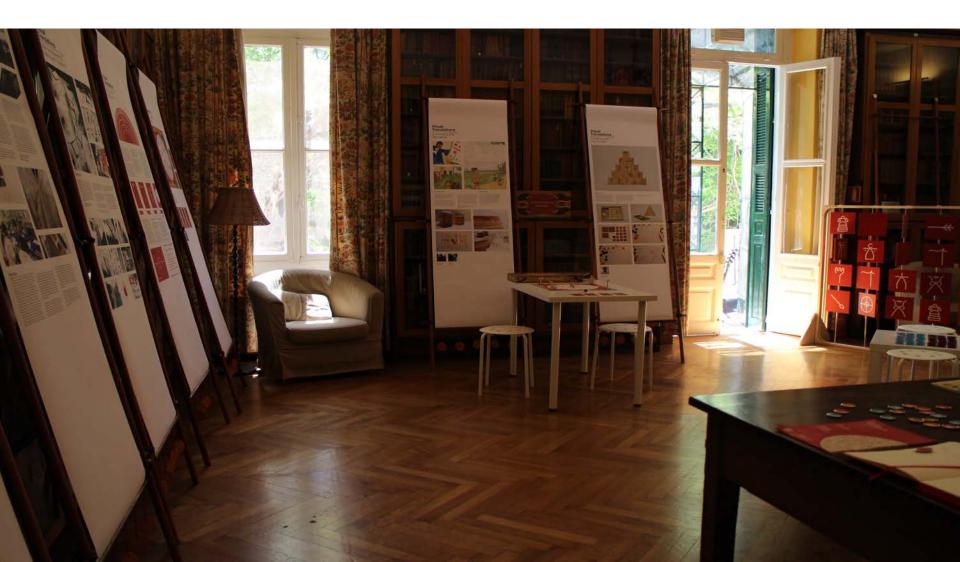








## AFFAIKH APXAIOAOFIKH ΣΧΟΛΗ BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY











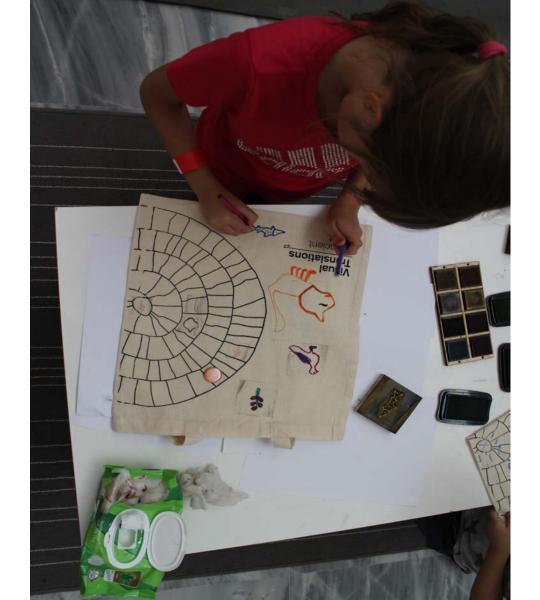










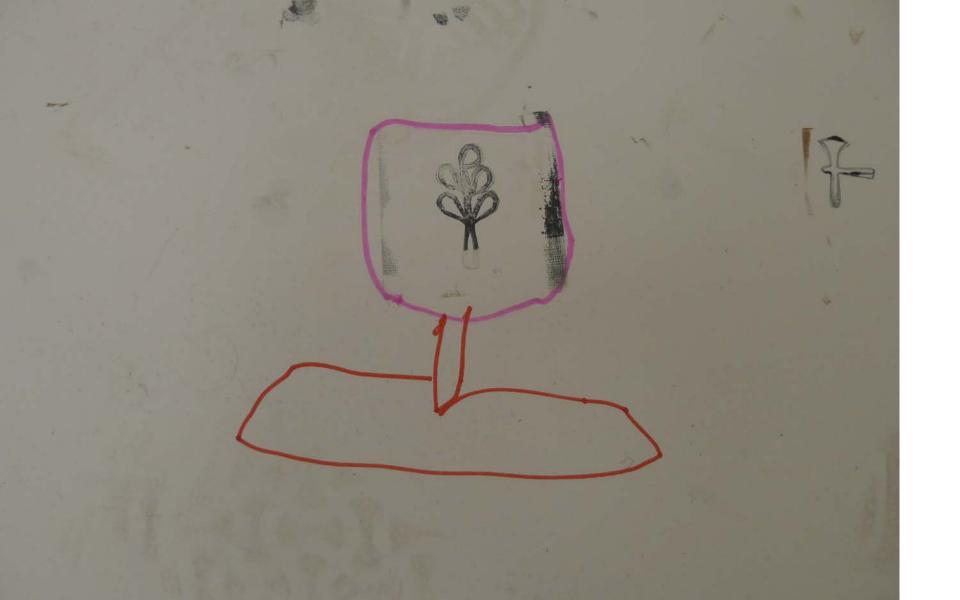








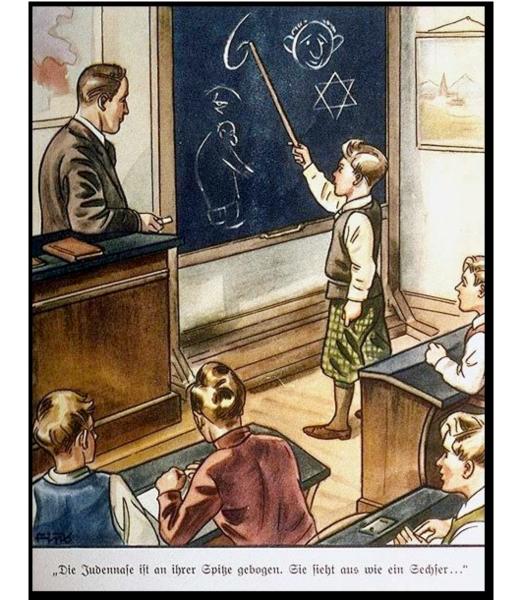












'Interpretation involves intellectual confrontation with language

and other cultural products. In the spirit of interpretation, meaning is not an innate quality of forms or an automatic reaction of the brain; it is discovered by relating signs to one's own personal and cultural experience, and to other signs.

Images take meaning from stylistic and iconic conventions, from other images, and form words, as well as from natural objects. To interpret is to recognize that signs are not an absolute, neutral, and fixed, but are, rather, in historical flux. '

(Lupton:1986)

Thank you!

If you are interested in this type of 'stuff', please do get in touch:

m.levick-parkin@shu.ac.uk