

## **A comparative study of Miniature Antelope in Petroglyphs of East and West of Iran (Case study: Sarbishe and Uraman)**

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### **Abstract**

Antelope image have had a crucial role in Iranian art since years ago, and its miniatures have been observed a lot in cave paintings, stone carvings, potteries and metal utensils from pre-historic periods. This image, on some antiquities, conveys values and signs which have been shown within these works based on the opinions and beliefs of ancient human. One of these works is petroglyphs. This study investigates the miniature antelope in the petroglyphs (rock paintings) of the East (Kurangun of Sarbishe) and West latitude of Iran (rock paintings of Uraman) comparatively. Research method is descriptive-analytic and comparative. The data gathering comprises library resources and field study and comes to investigating antelope's image semiotics. The comparative study of paintings in terms of technique and technology, the following results were obtained: methodologically our selected areas are petroglyph (carving), respectively. Paintings were divided into four groups, according to the type of topics, such as antelope images in grazing, antelope image alongside human images in hunting ground, antelope image alongside symbolic images and antelopes images alongside animals and indistinct images. The results show that this image, over centuries, had been a symbol of vitality, fertility and the guardian of the tree of life in both cultural areas. Finally the engraved miniature antelope contains two religious and non-religious reasons, in both areas, which have a direct relationship to life, living, climate, customs and past beliefs and they establish strong links between rocky paintings and immigrants' paths.

**Keywords:** Miniature antelope, Petroglyphs, Sarbishe, Uraman.

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