

## Painting in Neolithic of Northwest Iberia: Archaeometrical Studies Applied to Megalithic Monuments

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**Abstract :** Funerary megalithic monuments are probably under the most remarkable remains of the Neolithic period of western Europe. Some monuments are well known for their paintings, sometimes associated with engraved motifs, giving the funerary crypts a character of great symbolic value. The engraved and painted motifs, the colors used in the paintings, and the offerings associated with the deposited corpses are archaeological data that, being part of the funeral rites, also reveal the ideological world of these communities and their way of interacting with the world. In this sense, the choice of colors to be used in the paintings, the pigments collected, and the proceeds for making the paints would also be significant performances. The present study will focus on the characterization of painted art from megalithic monuments located in different areas of North-Western Portugal (coastal and inland). The colorant composition of megalithic barrows decorated with rock art motifs was studied using a multi-analytical approach (XRD, SEM-EDS, FTIR, and GC-MS), allowing the characterization of the painting techniques, pigments, and the organic compounds used as binders. Some analyses revealed that the pigments used for painting were produced using a collection of mined or quarried organic and inorganic substances. The results will be analyzed from the perspective of contingencies and regularity among the different case studies in order to interpret more or less standardized behaviors.

**Keywords :** funerary megalithic monuments, painting motifs, archaeometrical studies, Northwest Iberia, behaviors

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