



ROCK ART DOCUMENTATION

WHY IS SAN ROCK ART SIGNIFICANT?

Archaeological evidence suggests that the San people lived in the mountains of South Africa for tens of thousands of years. There are few documented accounts of their stories, beliefs, and what occurred before the arrival of modern man, but the San people did leave behind a rich legacy of rock art depicting their way of life. The paintings portray scenes of hunting, dancing, fighting, food gathering and various rituals alluding to their Shamanism belief system (connecting with the spiritual world through an altered state of consciousness).

Each rock art site is unique and once destroyed is gone forever. Since restoration is not possible on damaged rock art it is imperative to create a permanent digital record of the paintings.

"No more do we Bushmen hunt in these hills. The fire is cold. Our songs are quiet. But listen carefully. You will hear us in the water. Look carefully, you will see us in the rock."



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

ACT's archaeological team has visited a number of sites in the Drakensberg and Cape Fold Mountain regions and conducted site condition assessments, GIS mapping and high resolution photographs. This included some previously undocumented sites.

ACT's DMU have also been using cutting edge technology to create a detailed record of rock art paintings and engravings and to deliver that experience to the public. This includes highly accurate 3D models, virtual tours which allow people to walk through remote sites from their computer or smart device, and image enhancement which can reveal faded paintings not visible with the naked eye.

For more information and links to the interactive tools please follow the link:
<http://www.actheritage.org/rock-art/>



Image Enhancement: *Before*



Image Enhancement: *After*

