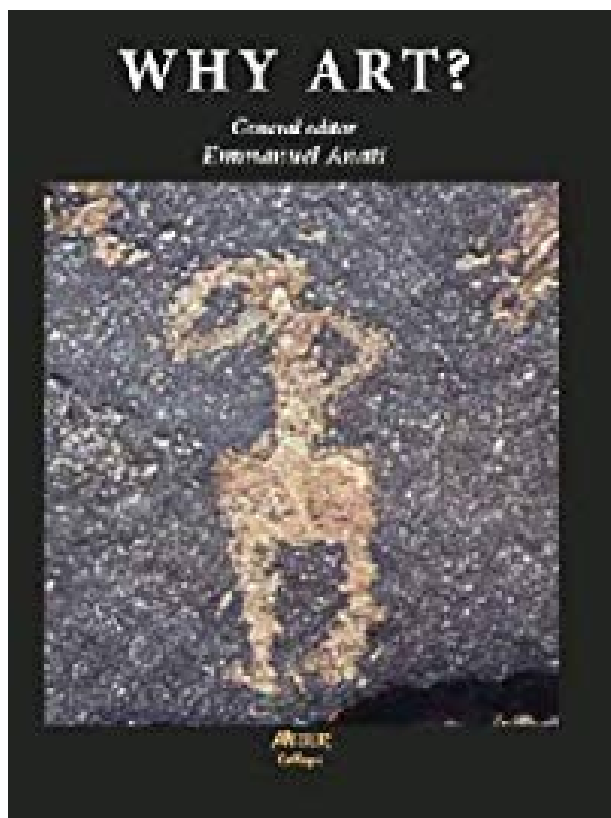


Why Art? (Colloqui XI.)



Goodreads Rating:	3.50
Language	English
Author:	Emmanuel Anati
Published:	August 2017 by Atelier Editions, Capo di Ponte
Pages:	126

[Why Art? \(Colloqui XI\).pdf](#)

[Why Art? \(Colloqui XI\).epub](#)

The volume is a collection of papers written by scholars from various countries. Prehistoric art is like the literature of more recent times: some depictions may concern science, others religion, some may be perceived as school textbooks and others as mere fiction. George F. Steiner *The Goddess and the Copper Snake: Metallurgy, Star-lore and Ritual in the Rock Art of the Southern Levant*. pp. 81-103. Pastoralism and metallurgy emerged simultaneously in the arid southern Levant, with the first attested records dated to the Late Neolithic. The two economies reached their maturity during the Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze Age. The bulk of the rock engravings of the Negev Desert and the neighboring areas are dated precisely to this period. Their symbolism bears witness to the compatible values of smiths and nomads. These beliefs are also well reflected in nomadic star-lore, which is apparently the oral version of the stories told by a number of petroglyphs. The literature describing the relations between pastoral nomads and itinerant coppersmiths, from ancient to modern times, emphasizes the special status of the latter, which is expressed in their role as marginalized ritual specialists. Even that the values professed by coppersmiths left a deep mark on the mythology of the nomad, the influences were reciprocal, and the descendants of the Bronze Age smelters would become the champions of nomadic virtues during the Iron Age.