

Understanding Drawing Elements of Pottery Patterns of the Transitional Chalcolithic of Iran's Central Plateau Based on the Findings of Cheshmeh Ali

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Abstract

Balance and coherence of components making an artwork are the most significant and well-known principles. Proper use, an appropriate connection between the components, and the way they are presented lead to the creation of the balance factor. This factor is one of the important and influential factors on human mind and attracts attention at first sight. Any ambiguity or agitation will be eliminated from the mind of the designer and viewer if the abovementioned factor is implemented properly. Organizing visual arts in an artwork exposes the viewer to a unified totality. Therefore, the main purpose of the present study is to analyze the composition of the geometric and animal-patterned pottery of Cheshmeh Ali, in relation to the study and analysis of factors affecting the maintenance of balance and visual order in the pottery motifs discussed. North of Central Iran in the period of transition from the Neolithic Age to the Chalcolithic Age (Transitional Chalcolithic) (4300-5200) witnessed the emergence of pottery with new visual and structural features distinguishing it from the previous pottery of the region. These painted potteries of Cheshmeh Ali (4600-5200) have been noted by many due to their elegance in construction, suitable baking quality, abundance of motifs, and creation of new motifs, variety in form and type of motif composition. This study answered the question "which factor has led to the organization of visual elements and maintenance of balance in the composition of geometric and animal-patterned pottery of Cheshmeh Ali?" A qualitative method has been adopted in this research, and the required data have been collected through observing, using library documents, and visiting museum samples. Findings indicate that the quality and configuration of lines, along with the main and complementary motifs, resulted in maintaining the visual balance and organizing the composition of the geometric and animal-patterned pottery of Cheshmeh Ali.

Keywords: Drawing Elements, Pottery Designs, Transitional Chalcolithic, Cheshme Ali Site

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