

CHAVET CAVE PAINTINGS

PROJECT

Leather tooling pattern project inspired by some of the best preserved cave paintings in the world, found in the Chavet-Pont-d'Arc Cave, Ardeches, South of France. The paintings and archeological finds date back over 30,000 years and were preserved by a rockfall. Today you can see them up close by visiting an astounding large and accurate replica cave 'Chavet 2'.



LEATHER

- Natural veg tan coaster
- Natural veg tan bookmark

TOOLS

- stylus
- B200 beveller
- free hand groover
- swivel knife

MATERIALS

Water based leather stains – diluted 50 percent with water

- Yellow Ochre
- Orange
- Slate Grey

SKILL LEVEL

Beginner to intermediate

SHOP

www.identityleathercraft.com



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print off the template
2. Dampen the leather and leave for several minutes.
3. Position the paper over the leather coaster and tape down in place to stop it moving.
4. Using the stylus or a pencil firmly trace over the lines pressing into the leather/
5. Lift away and re-emphasise the lines with either the stylus, swivel knife or free-hand groover.



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This template is inspired by the running lions and horses paintings. These are show either side of a rock buttress giving the impression the lions are chasing after the other animals.

They are shaded around the back area and muzzles to give more definition. This can be acheived in the leather with a beveller or by colouring.

See photo on next page.

SHOP

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note: artwork slightly adapted to fit project

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ANIMAL DEPICTIONS

EDUCATION



There are over 900 paintings in the cave, giving us a clear window into the animals that were around at the time. From the paintings and animal remains found, it is possible to identify bears, mammoths and rhinos.

Horses, bison, ibex, reindeer, red deer, aurochs, Megaceros deer, musk-oxen, panther, and owl are also represented.



The paintings are found deep in the cavern and would be thought to be made by only a few artists. They would have worked by torchlight and the soot from the torches is still visible in places on the cave wall.

They were drawn with charcoal sticks and coloured with clay and earth pigments rubbed in to create shade and texture. Notice how the lions are drawn to show perspective as though they are running together.



Nearer the entrance the first paintings appear to be made by the heel of a hand covered in red clay and pressed in to the wall to make animal shapes. The fingers make eyelashes.

This hand print is in negative, thought to be made by making a liquid paste of clay and blowing through a wood pipe to spray paint the rock. They are thought to be work of one artist, easily identified by the crooked bend in the little finger.

OWL ENGRAVING

EDUCATION



This drawing of an owl was made by fingers dragged through the wet clay walls of the cave. The atmospheric conditions due to the rockfall preserved the moisture and kept this astonishing image from drying out.



Many of the paintings are drawn to sit in to the shapes of the rock formations.

The owl seen here shows the artist has drawn it to appear sitting on a branch.

These pictures show the oldest known image of an owl. It's actually the only known example of an owl in Paleolithic art.

It is an engraving rather than a painting, of what has been identified as a great horned owl, and is situated on an overhanging rock next to the image of a horse. It's described as "a finger tracing of an owl in the soft outer layer of the cave wall." One description interprets the image as an owl looking backwards over its back. This engraved owl dates to sometime between 32,000 and 35,000 years ago.