

Rock art is the manufacture of some kind of image on a rock face, most commonly in a rock shelter, and it is one of the oldest and most universal examples of human artistry to survive in the archaeological record. Because of its universality, comparative studies have been conducted to determine how similar or dissimilar cultures are from one another. In this paper, a systematic analysis of the contents of rock art sites from the San of South Africa and the Pecos River rock art complex in the American Southwest is used to determine the relative abundance of religious or spiritual motifs in these cultures. This is done in the hopes that it may shed more light on the culture of the Pecos River complex and to determine the importance of shamanism in interpreting San rock art.