

Preface

“Image, Thought, and the Making of Social Worlds” is the third volume in the newly founded publication series on visual archaeology (FAVis), edited by the Institute for Archaeological Sciences (IAW) at the University of Freiburg i. Br. It is a collection of papers originally presented at a conference organized by David Wengrow in 2019 as part of the “Initiative Kleine Fächer Baden-Württemberg”. David Wengrow conceived the volume during several stays as a visiting professor at the University of Freiburg, and it sheds new light on how images can be a creative expression of past cultures in two main ways. Firstly, as image systems in their own right and secondly as a way of communication with regard to and in conjunction with writing. In this way, the heuristic value of images as an archaeological source reaches dimensions that are as fundamental as they are innovative for image studies. In addition, the Freiburg conference expanded the Freiburg Institute of Archaeological Sciences’ archaeological approaches beyond the temporal and spatial boundaries of the Ancient World and repositioned them in the realm of early image and writing systems.

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on behalf of the editors of FAVis