

Animal iconology

*Identifying animal representations
to aid archaeological analysis*

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What is iconology?

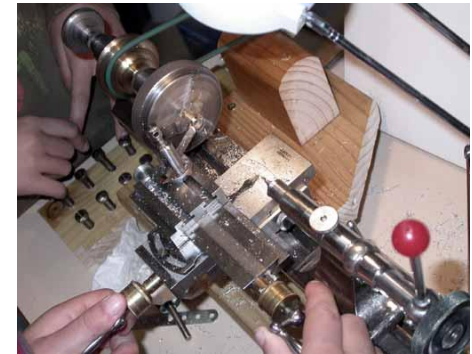
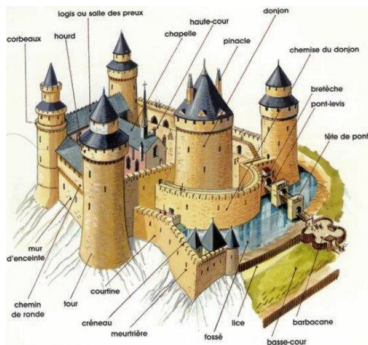
History of the discipline

- invented by Aby Moritz Warburg (1866-1929)
- codified by Erwin Panofsky in 1939
- 2006, the Iconology Research Group founded by Barbara Baert

**Why iconology
and not archaeology or art history?**

What is iconology?

Not archaeology which is the
**Scientific discipline which studies artifacts
made by human beings**



technics ≠ image studies

Philippe Bruneau & Pierre-Yves Balut,

<http://anthropologiedelart.org/centrage/la-recherche/>

What is iconology?

Not art history because

- art is a subjective topic which will be always out of any definition \neq science
- iconology is not only about history but History with prehistory



What is iconology?

Icono = image / logy = study

Scientific discipline which studies pictures made by human beings

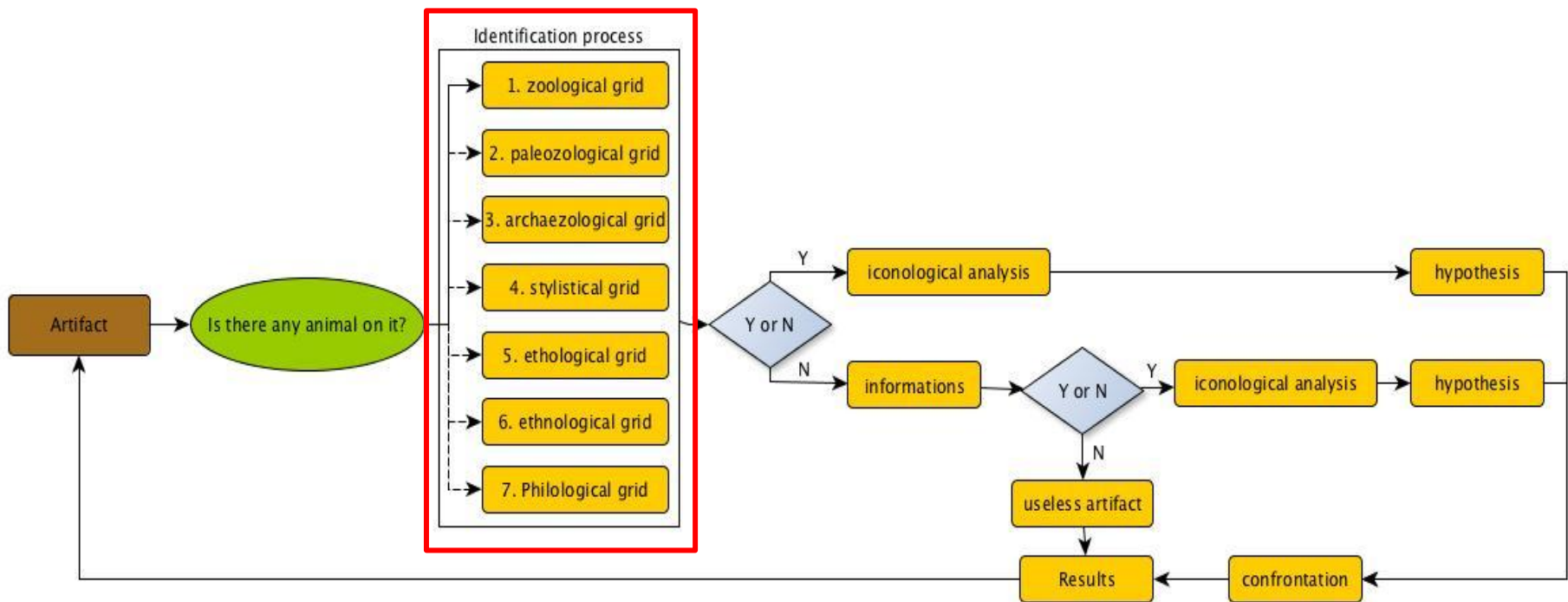
with no limit of

- **time** - prehistory or history
- **location** - all over the world
- **type** - engraved, painted
- **purpose** - narrative, esthetic



Practice

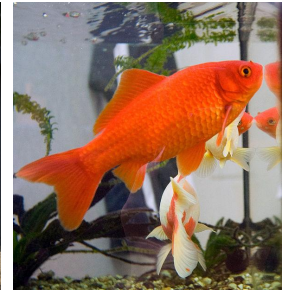
Animals case - Analysis protocole



Practice

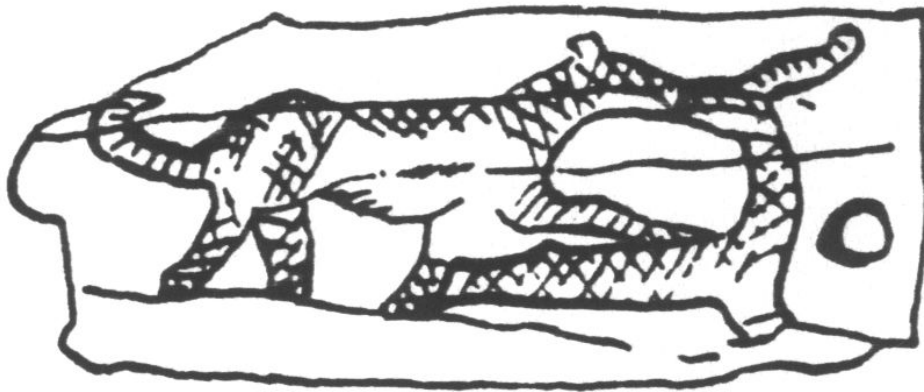
Animals case - Analysis protocole

Which animal do you see on this disk?



Practice

Animals case - Analysis protocole



Is the animal biting the other a dog?

Is this other a dog?



How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Bovine in Syria



How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Bovine in Syria



How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Bovine in Syria

From biologic world
to symbolic depiction

Sex biologic

Male

Castrated

Female

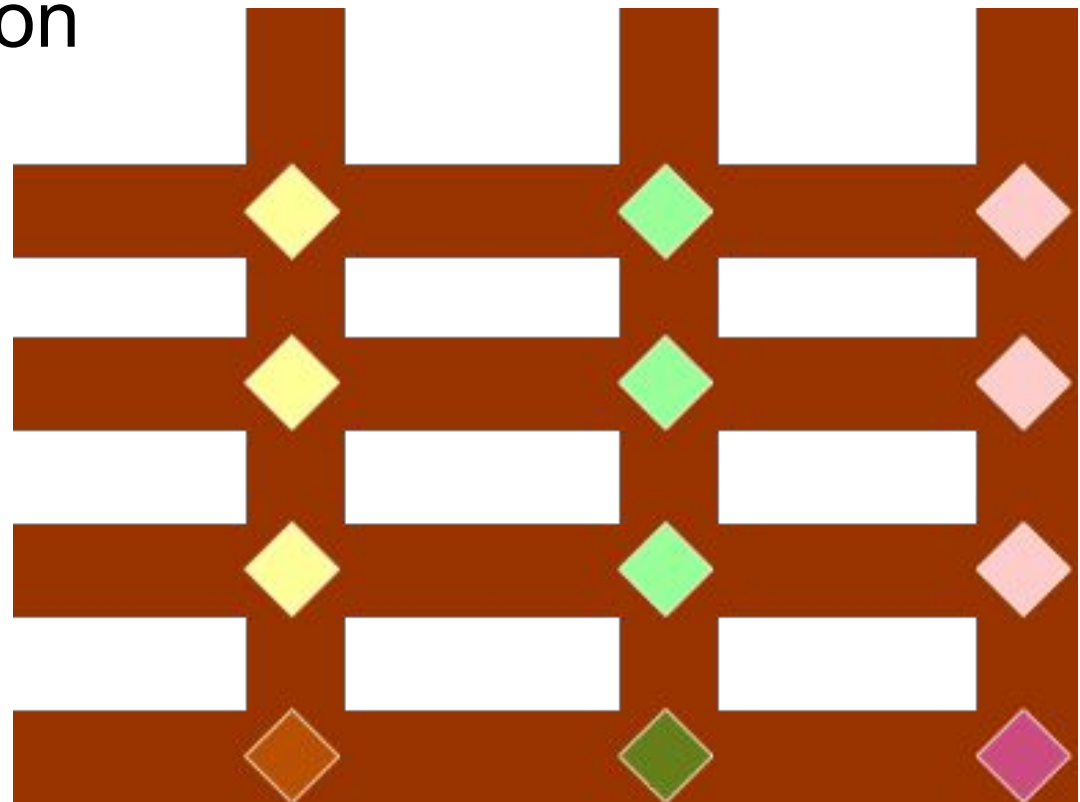
Ungender

Sex symbolic

Masculine

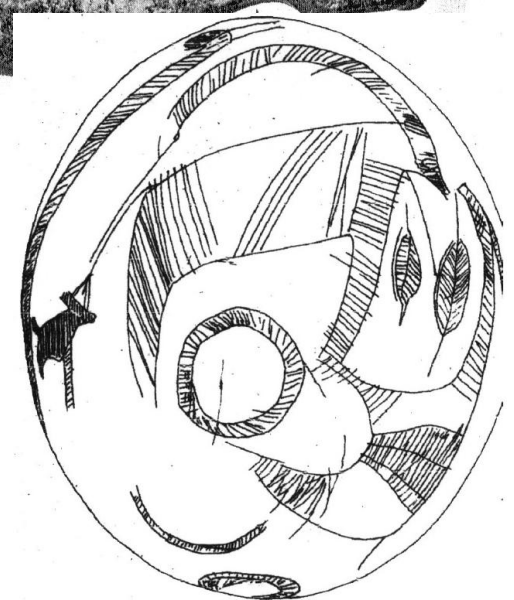
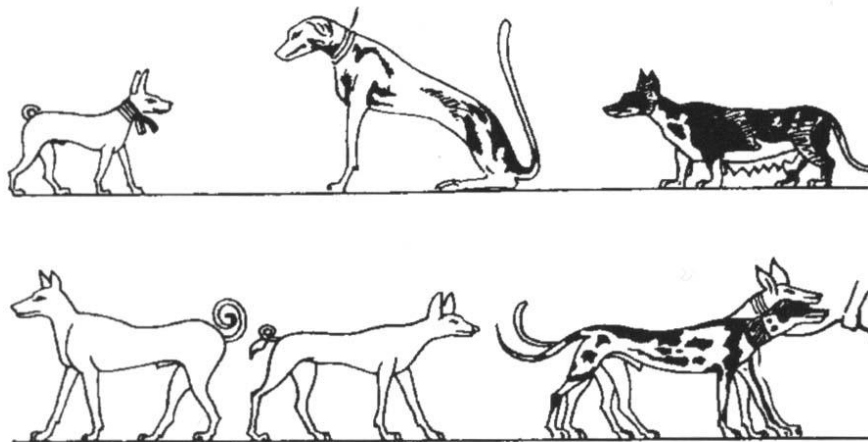
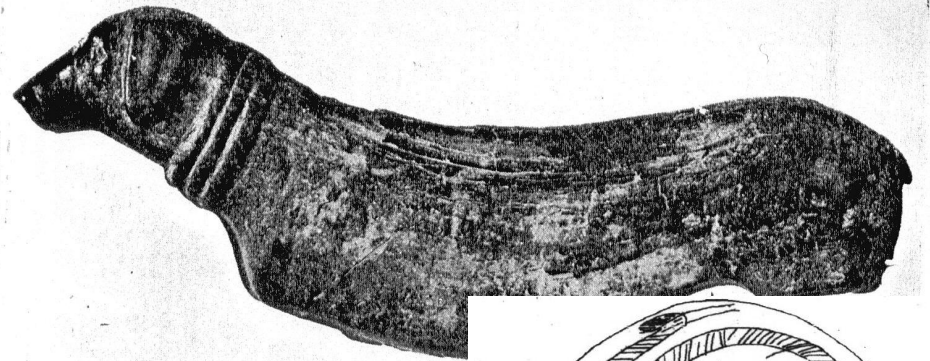
Neutral

Feminine



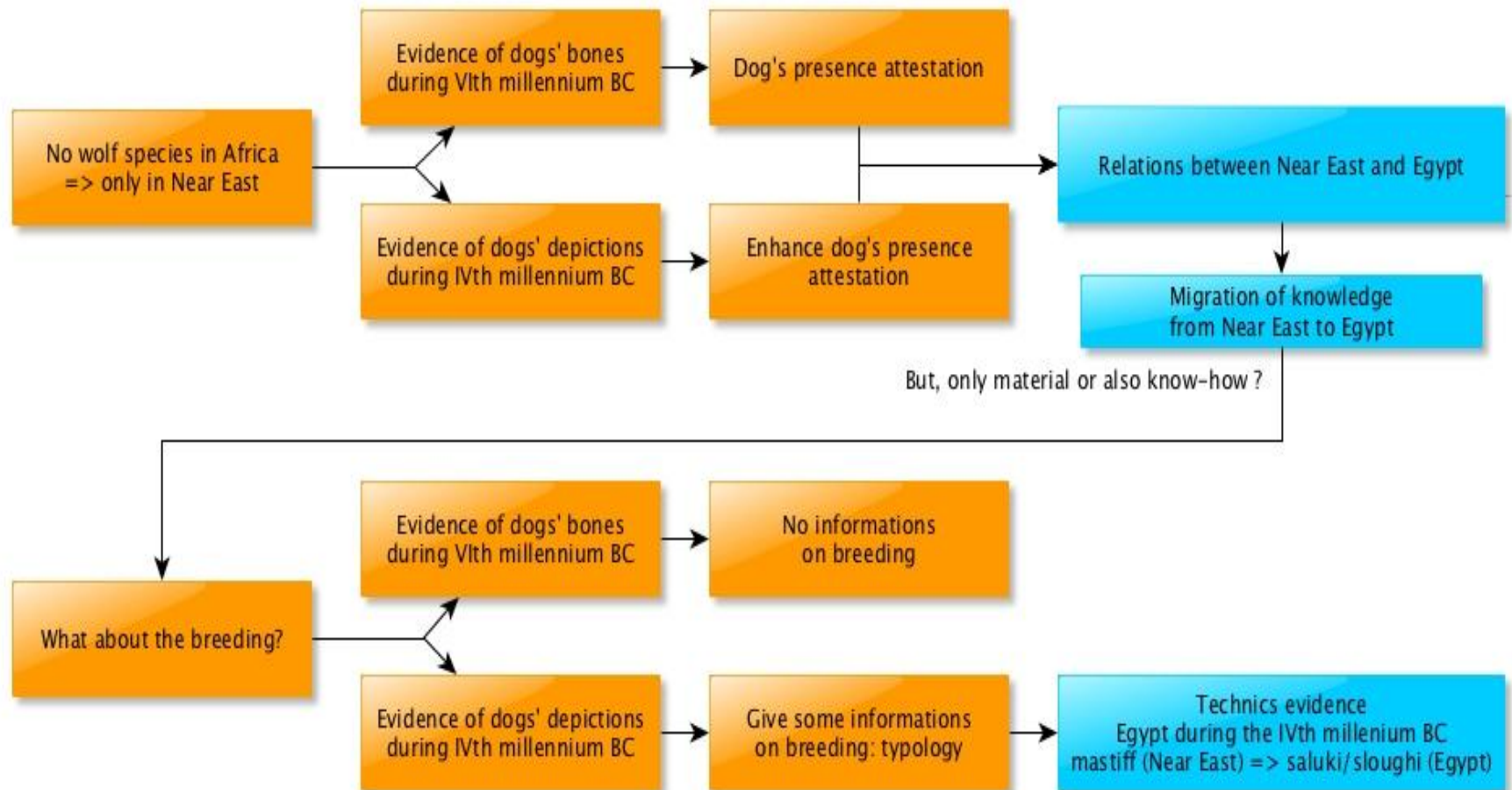
How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Canids in Egypt



How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Canids in Egypt



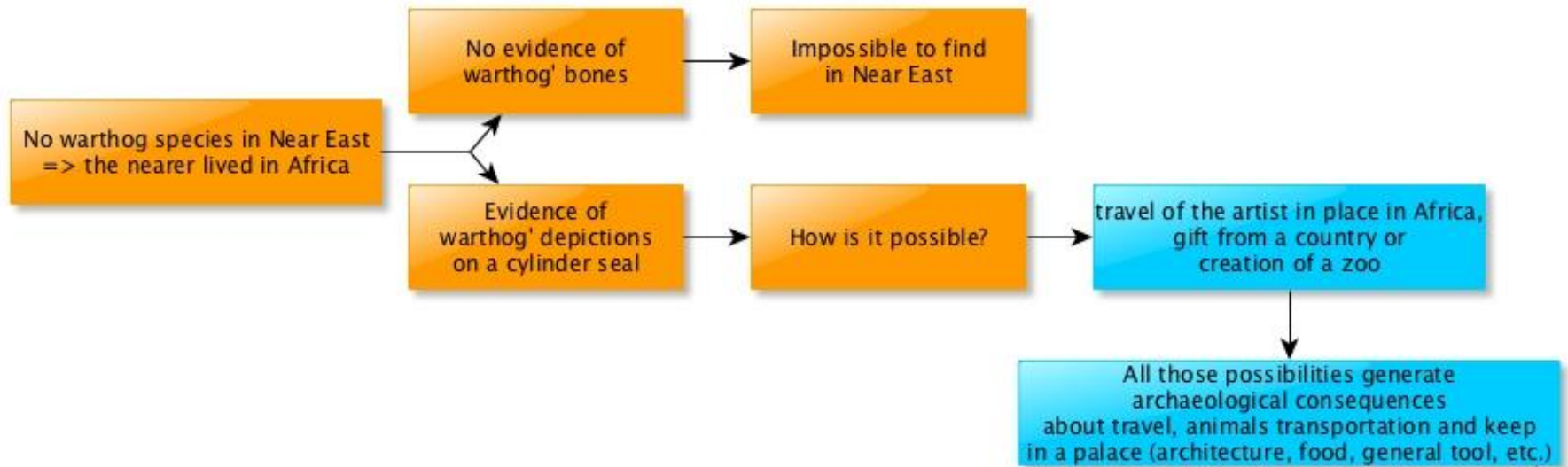
How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Suidae in Near East



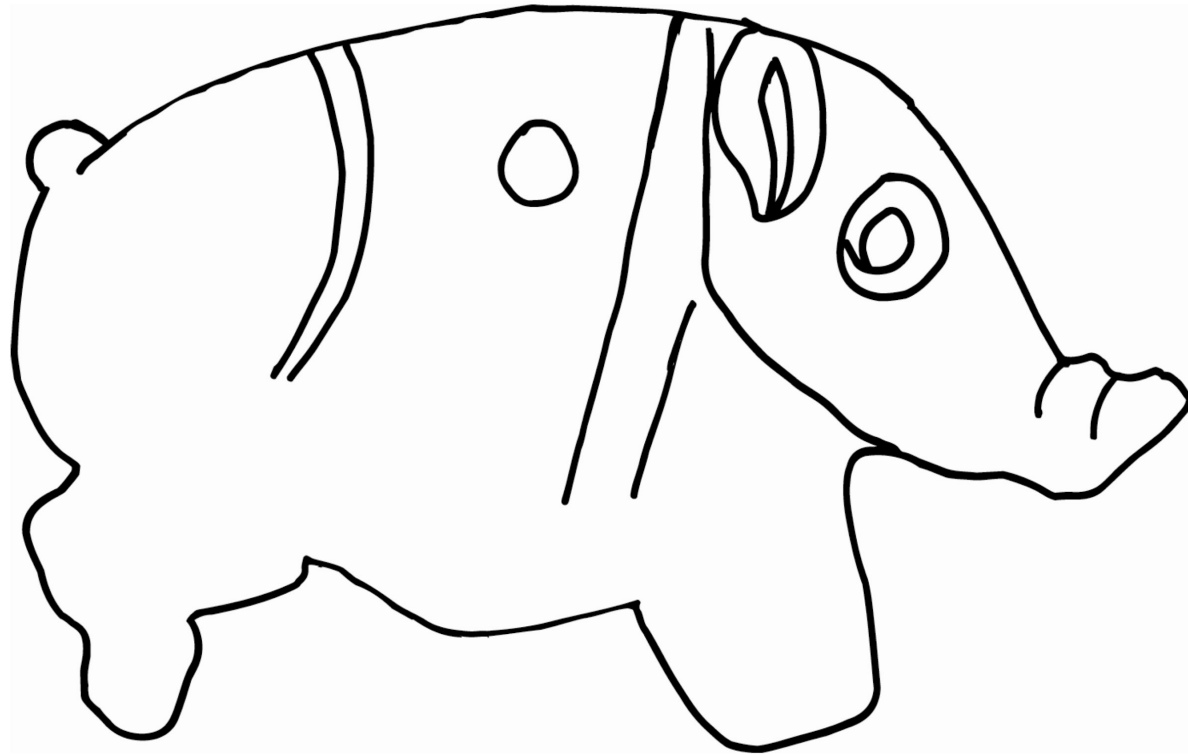
How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Suidae in Near East



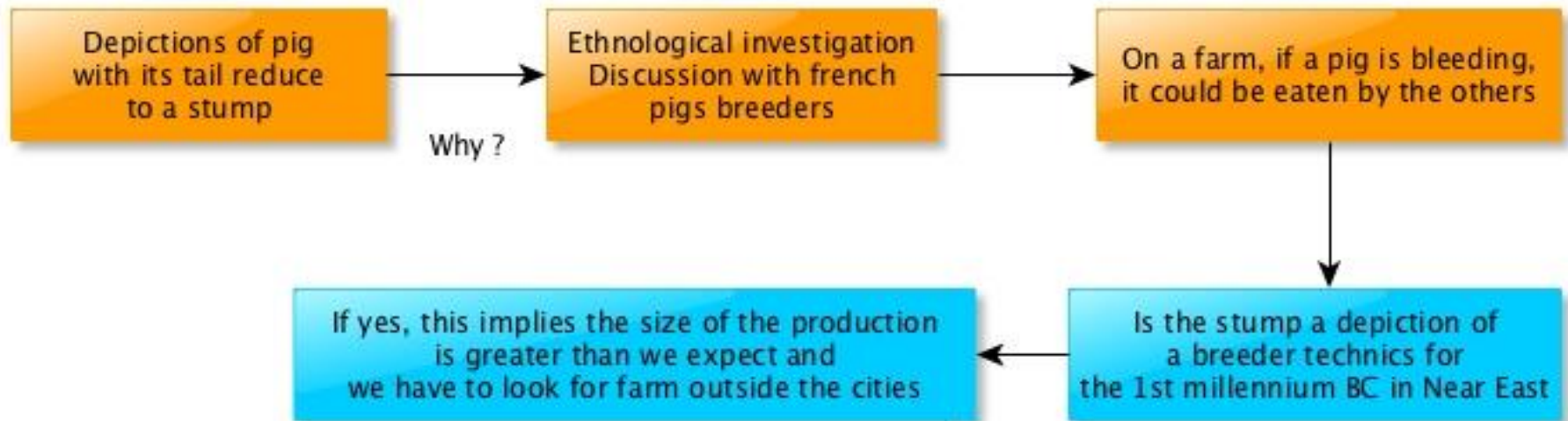
How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Suidae in Near East



How iconology can help archaeology?

Results - Suidae in Near East



Conclusion

Iconology should not be confused with archaeology nor art history
in order to give to the archaeology
a real chance to discover new ways to help

- to **understand technics** from old civilisations
 - > thanks to a new approach of an artifact that an archaeological research didn't understand
 - > thanks to new datas, because not any artifacts has been found and no texts mentioned it either
- to **understand the place of professions** into past civilisations
 - > emergence of new professions, development of corporations

Conclusion

Iconology should not be confused with archaeology nor art history
in order to give to the archaeology
a real chance to discover new ways to help

- to **discriminate** what is coming from other cultures and what is coming from the local cultures
- to **get new ideas on** old civilisations beliefs and science



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Questions

If you don't have, I got 2:

- 1. Do you think such sort of study can help you?**
 - If yes, why?
 - If not, why?

- 2. Would you begin a research thanks to the support of an iconological study?**
 - If yes, why?
 - If not, why?

References

<https://arkeotopia.academia.edu/GransardDesmond>

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