Axxx-Czech Republic, Moravia-Střelice,Venus-Figurine

6,850-4,300 BCE

(Moravian Painted Ceramics, stage Ia)

Resin replica of original. Czech Republic, Moravia, Střelice Museum.

Střelice Moravian ceramic figurines, such as this one, were located in the context of habitations (notably near hearths, see Sázelová 2008) in settled areas in large reoccupied sites near agricultural resources (Čižmář et alii 2008), which near this site is still being farmed today. A very conservative figural grammar (Humpolová and Podborský 2013) was evidently sustained for many generations based on C14 data (Kuča 2012, 2011). The characteristic Střelice cap-like head is probably definitive.

This figurine is probably associated with a general social and medical anxiety for safe childbirth. Figurines incorporating indications of these anxieties may have accompanied the instructions (perhaps incorporated in rituals) by expert women midwives.

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