NEW A125 Dis-Eur-Czech Republic-Moravia-Střelice-Figurine-Female-Venus-Abstract-Ceramic

CASE 1 THIRD FROM RIGHT SECOND-TO-BOTTOM SHELF

Fig. 1. Czech Republic-Moravia-Střelice-Figurine-Female-Venus-Ceramic

### ****Formal Label:**** Czech Republic-Moravia-Střelice-Figurine-Female-Venus-Abstract-Ceramic

**Display Description:** 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. This figurine has been sculpted in three volumes. The portion above the waist is apparently slender while the buttocks is more corpulent and below is slender again duplicating the first volume. This emphasis on corpulence is a feature of many Střelice female figurines. This very conservative figural grammar (Humpolová and Podborský 2013) was evidently sustained for many generations based on C14 data (Kuča 2012, 2011).

### LC Classification: GN772

**Date or Time Horizon:** 4,850 BCE-4,450 BCE

**Geographical Area, GPS Coordinates:** Czech Republic, Moravia,Střelice-Bukovina

**Photo of site:** after http://www.lands-of-venuses.eu/v-w-images/10-strelice/strelice-004a-bukovina-site.jpg

 

**Cultural Affiliation:** Neolithic

**Medium:** Fired clay.

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition: museum replica in resin.**

**Provenance:** Czech Republic, Moravia,Střelice Museum.

**Discussion:**

Since this abstract female figurine is slender above the waist and more corpulent below the waist this suggests that this figurine is associated with a general social and health anxiety for safe childbirth. Figurines incorporating indications of these anxieties may have accompanied the instructions (perhaps incorporated in rituals) by women midwives who had expertise in the care of pregnant mothers and the practice and art of delivering babies safely.In Neolithic communities it was important to have many children as the agricultural work required many hands. Midwives still perform the same tasks to assist their communal sisters in pregnancy and childbirth. Indeed, a similar anxiety to have many children is noticeable today among traditional farming families in many parts of the world, especially in Africa, India, and South America.

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