

ARKÆOLOGISK FORUM

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De glemte farver

Legeringsvalg og visuel kultur

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Abstract

Forgotten Colors Alloys and Visual Culture

This article explores the use of color in copper alloys from the Bronze and Iron Ages, focusing on how alloy composition and surface treatments reflect deliberate aesthetic and technological choices. Prehistoric metalworkers could produce a wide spectrum of hues, from deep red and orange to golden and silvery tones, by adjusting the proportions of tin and/or zinc. Using XRF analyses and results from previous research, variations in alloy compositions are proven and most likely correspond to intentional color selection. Color in prehistoric metalwork was not a mere by-product of technology, but an intentional and important element of visual culture.

Peer reviewed

