

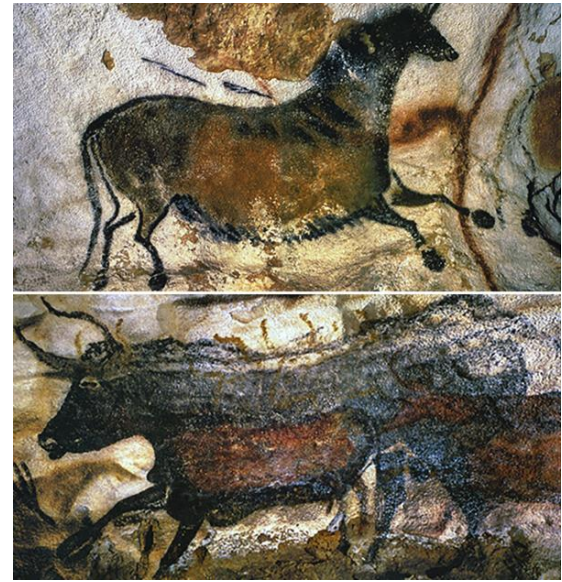
# FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

18 year old Marcel Ravidat was chasing his dog through a forest near [Lascaux](#) when his dog went into a narrow shaft between two rocks. Marcel followed him inside, finding a cave. Marcel took three friends back to explore the cave four days later believing they may have found a secret tunnel into a nearby Manor House. They didn't find a secret tunnel but they did find a cave **adorned** with more than [600 stunning animal paintings](#) on the walls. ([Video](#))

The Lascaux Cave Paintings were painted around 17,000 years ago by Paleolithic humans living in the caves. The images of bison, horses, deer, and other creatures are not just art; they are a powerful reminder that early humans had imagination, beliefs, and a sense of beauty.

The caves were opened to the public in 1948, however by 1955, the 1200 visitors a day were adding moisture, fungi and carbon dioxide to the air that was beginning to destroy the paintings. To protect them, entry to the caves is now carefully controlled, but exact replicas have been painted in nearby caves for visitors to see.

The "Sistine Chapel of Prehistory," Lascaux transformed how we see our ancestors, not just as survivors, but as storytellers, artists, and thinkers.



- Imagine how Marcel and his friends felt when discovering the paintings.
- What do these paintings tell us about how the people who made them felt or thought?
- Does the act of creating art, then or now, make us more human? Why?

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18-year-old Marcel Ravidat and 3 friends discovered The Lascaux Cave Paintings this day 1940. ([Video](#))

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