



Hilltop Cloud

Time Travellers Club

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June-15

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Dear Club Member,

We're going a long way back in time for this month; back to pre-historic times. Ancient humans have used colour as decoration and for symbolic reasons for a very long time. The walls of the caves they used are covered in paintings that show important aspects of their lives.

The pigments they used all came from the earth, muds of different colours were carefully selected to give them a palette of reds, oranges, yellows, blacks and white. A while ago I listened to a radio programme that was discussing terminology for colours, and how they've developed in different languages and colour (You can listen to it here www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05stkqm) .In the vast majority of languages words for black, white and red develop first. To ancient people these colours had symbolic meanings and would be used at specific times.

The pre-historic cave paintings are beautiful, clean lines create stylised pictures of the world they saw around them. Bison, deer, horses and many other food sources are represented, and the humans who hunted them. Even though the animals are stylised careful application of colour gives them a 3-D appearance. The images we're most familiar with in the western world are those from the caves in France, but this sort of art is found all over the world. Down in Australia the Aboriginal people use the same pigments to create their own rock drawings.

When you look in a paint box and see names like Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, Red Ochre, and Sienna, they're referring back to natural pigments our ancestors extracted from the earth. Until recently they were the most common shades in the world around us, when houses were plastered, or covered in mud daub the colour of the walls would be dependent on the source of the mud.

This months fibre draws on those natural pigment shades, I've also used a primitive breed in the blend, but one that's still nice and soft.

Happy Spinning,

Katie