

## **The Role of the Murals of Tassili in Influencing the Contemporary Art Movement After Independence in Algeria**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Since time immemorial, the Tassili Mountains region has been a source of inspiration for many artists, whether from Algeria or other nationalities, and a source of great civilizations in the Central Sahara region of interest to many historians around the world until today. Its roots extended to different parts of Africa. The stability of the climatic condition was one of the most important motives for human settlement in caves and the beginning of sheep herding. It contributed to the development of life and the emergence of multiple civilizations, resulting in a huge artistic production of murals and sculptures, a source of inspiration for many artists of the current era. The ancient man was able to exploit all the surrounding natural elements such as stones and ostrich eggs and decorate them with vertical and undulating decorations to produce unique works of art despite their simplicity and primitiveness. And their sticks hunt animals like wild buffalo and deer, The reason for doing these actions is the belief of the ancient man that by filming these scenes he will gain strength to overcome them later. They also included in their mural their own writing "Tifinagh", which is their own writing system, which is considered one of the oldest writings in history and had a great spread in the northern coastal region of Algeria, in addition to the desert areas such as Tassili and Tadrart. This rich artistic heritage was able to influence a whole generation of contemporary artists who had faith in their identity and roots and made a great effort to revive it and preserve its survival and spread it around the world through various artistic forums and exhibitions, especially after Algeria gained its independence From the French occupation, artists such as Mohamed Khadda and Mohamed Isakhem and artistic movements appeared in protest against traditional art schools, such as the Al-Awsham group led by Denise Martinaz, a contribution from them in preserving the heritage and Amazigh art and adhering to their roots. Their main reference was the murals and sculptures of the Tassili region.

### **KEYWORDS**

Tassili murals; plastic art in Algeria; tattoo group