

COLOUR AND PAINTING TECHNIQUE ON THE ARCHAIC PANELS FROM PITSA, CORINTHIA

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Recent examination of four votive wooden panels from Pitsa in Corinthia, dated to the second half of the 6th century BC, allowed us to evaluate the use of colour and the painting techniques applied to those early pictorial documents. The tablets depict religious scenes connected with the cult of the nymphs. Preserved due to the stable microclimatic conditions inside the cave where they were discovered, they represent the earliest examples of panel painting to survive in Greece and a unique testimony of Archaic painting. The tablets serving as support are wooden panels, covered with a preparatory thin white layer of gesso and painted with a variety of pigments comprising black, white, blue, red, yellow, purple and brown hues, surprisingly well preserved.

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² Orlandos 1935; Lemerle 1935, 258-259; Orlandos 1965.

³ Larson 2001.