

CONTINUITY OF ARTS & CRAFTS IN MILENNIA OF HUMANIZATION



These are images of the front and rear sides of a stone fist axe approximately 60,000 years old.

In 1980 I, Dirck van Bekkum, found this artifact (archaeological object that is man-made, processed and / or used) in a small sand quarry at the *Grenzweg* in the Reichswald on the (eastern) border of the Netherlands (De Plak) and Germany (Galgesteeg).



In those times he found during a Sunday morning walk with his children on the outskirts of Beuningen (where they then lived) to the Wijchense Lane (where an overpass was built) in a raised sand MAMMOTH tooth with pieces of a jaw. (See picture)

Finding this hand axe, and the mammoth tooth less than 20 km apart, was a deep and intense experience for me and my families's artisan traditions. The man who made this tool was probably part of a hunter-gatherer community that hunted mammoths. Finding, holding and feeling this beautiful artefact was and is a journey through time connecting with someone similar craft skills as my and me had. By manually crafting such stones I bridged the enormous time gap.

I immediately experienced a direct connection to the creative thinking and handicraft meticulous (neurotransmittende) eye-hand coordination of the 'tool maker of this hand axe'. Of these, I used my 10-year fieldwork (research) as a arts & crafts therapist in clinical psychiatry ([Van Bekkum 1994](#)).

In my MA thesis (1988) and in the Arts & Crafts Impulse (ACI) model demonstrated in some later publications (1994; 2006; 2015) he built strongly on this experience. My conclusion after a four decades long research and quest is: without arts & crafting humanity is lost. Fortunately the miracle of art in handicraft emerges again. (see Richard Sennett *The Craftsman* 2008).

For more see www.anthropo-gazing.nl

April 25, 2015; The Netherlands, Dirck van Bekkum = Squinted Hawk.