

ARTS & CRAFTING CONTINUITY IN HUNDREDS OF MILENNIA HUMANIZATION



These are images of the front and rear sides of a [stone hand axe](#) approximately 60,000 years old.

In 1980 Dirck van Bekkum, artisan-anthropologist-therapist, found this artefact (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 the same year 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, a [MAMMOTH mortar](#) with pieces of a jaw. (See picture)

Finding this hand ax, 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. By sharing arts & crafting skills an enormous time gap was bridged.

Van Bekkum experienced a direct connection to the creative thinking and handicraft meticulous (neurotransmitting) eye-hand coordination of the 'tool maker' of this hand-axe. From these experiences his 10-year fieldwork (research), as a crafting therapist in clinical psychiatry, initiated.

In his MA thesis (1988) and in the Arts & Crafts Impulse (ACI) model demonstrated in later publications (1994; 2006; 2015) he was still building on these shamanistic experiences.

His conclusion after 4 decades of research and questing: without arts & crafting humanity is lost.

Fortunately the miracle of arts & crafting regains status again (R. Sennett [The Craftsman](#) 2008).

May 10th, 2015 The Netherlands, Dirck van Bekkum = Squinted Hawk. For more see www.anthropo-gazing.nl