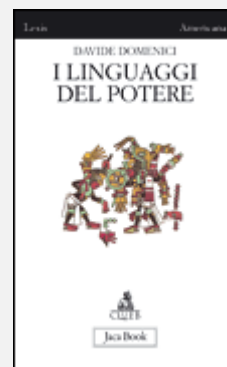


Davide Domenici

**THE LANGUAGES OF POWER
ART AND PROPAGANDA IN ANCIENT MESOAMERICA**



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In the Mesoamerican world, where written communication was a privilege granted to a small intellectual elite, most public communications – political and religious – happened through art.

Most of these works of art were produced to glorify the governors' power, a kind of power that was absolute and drenched with holiness. Whenever there are no political treaties available, the analysis of Mesoamerican monuments allow for a thorough investigation of the development and evolution of the foundations of power and sovereignty. They also help sift through the changeable history of the strategies and languages of ancient forms of political propaganda.

The tangle of politics, art and symbology is a constant of this study, a paradigmatic knot even for those who approach the Mesoamerican universe through similar studies in different cultural contexts, including the contemporary western context.

From this point of view, we recommend this book to those interested in languages and in the symbolic economy of power, because the Mesoamerican peoples succeeded in fixing forms and formulas that are almost antithetical despite the mutual cultural background of their governors. An archaeological research in the field, historical data and an urge for theoretical clarification are intertwined in this book which, thanks to its immediacy and accessibility, is also a valuable introduction to the great historical adventure of Mesoamerica.

About the Author

Davide Domenici, born in Rome in 1968, archaeologist, serves as Researcher at the Department of Palaeography and Medieval Studies at the University of Bologna, where he collaborates with the chair of American Native Civilizations. Specialist in the Archaeology of the American continent, he has conducted researches in Peru, Chile and Mexico; since 1998 he is co-director of the Archaeological Project Río La Venta (Chiapas, Mexico). He has published several articles and monographs on Meso-American Archaeology.

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