

Globular Flute

The **Globular Flute** (Macedonian: Топчеста Флејта; Latinic: Topčesta flejta) is a Neolithic ocarina-type flute found in 1989 at the Mramor archaeological site near Čaška village, 15 km north of Veles in the Republic of Macedonia.

The artefact is an irregular spherical object made of refined reddish clay, with a diameter of 4.7 cm and a hollow interior. The surface of the object is without any decorative elements. The object is pierced with three holes with different diameters (0.4 cm and 0.6 cm), arranged like the apexes of a triangle. The hole positioned at one corner of the triangle is wider than the other two, which are identical. The object has been identified as a musical instrument by the excavators, an ocarina-type globular flute.^[1]



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The flute has no find context, having been discovered in a ploughed field, but the date of the Neolithic settlement at Mramor ranges from between 5000 and 4000 BC. Although a unique object, experts consider it to be a demonstration of the type of technology available in Neolithic Europe.^[2] It is not known if the flute was for performing ritual music or for entertainment, but experiments have been carried out on the melodies produced by the instrument by musician Dragan Dautovski who has played a glass reproduction of the Mramor flute, revealing possible Neolithic melodic registers and scales.^[3] Dautovski has said that the timbre of the flute is "almost shocking", and the instrument is "a testimonial to the divine power of music as the oldest cosmic language".^[4]

References

- Jovcevska, T., "Globular Flute". Skopje, 2007. (in Macedonian). A rough English translation version is here: ^[1] (http://uzkn.gov.mk/dokumenti/flejta/GLOBULAR_FLUTE.pdf), and the illustrations from the original book are here: ^[2] (http://uzkn.gov.mk/dokumenti/flejta/Ilustracii_Illustrations.pdf)
- Simon Wyatt, "Soul Music: Instruments in an Animistic Age", page 13, in "The Sounds of Stonehenge". Stephen Banfield (ed.), BAR British Series 504, Oxford 2009. ^[3] (<http://www.simonwyatt.webspace.virginmedia.com/SWigheard/pubs/Dr%20Simon%20Wyatt%202009%20SoulMusic.pdf>)
- Goce Naumov, "Embodied Houses: the Social and Symbolic Agency of Neolithic Architecture in the Republic of Macedonia", page 77, in "Tracking the Neolithic House in Europe", D. Hofmann, J. Smyth (eds.). New York, 2013.
- Dejan Trajkoski, "Dragan Dautovski: Music is the Oldest Language", 2011. ^[4] (<http://www.southeast-europe.eu/features/music0/dragan-dautovski-music-is-the-oldest-language.html>)

Links

- YouTube videos of Dragan Dautovski playing a replica of the Mramor globular flute: ^[5] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8ryiu8zMol>), ^[6] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQMntIyoQoo>)
- Getty Images 2007 photograph of Dragan Dautovski holding the flute: ^[7] (<http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/news-photo/dragan-dautovski-professor-at-the-faculty-of-musical-arts-news-photo/73869987>)

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