



Museum Ulm | Marktplatz 9 | 89073 Ulm

Press Release from 05|05|20

Stadt Ulm

ulm

# : Black on white

The riddle of the stone age slices from the Blaual  
Until 31 January 2021

Museum Ulm | Studio Archaeology

Since 2011 they have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage "Prehistoric Lake Dwellings around the Alps", the ruins of a 6000 year old village from the Neolithic Age in the valley of the river Blau near Ehrenstein near Ulm. Due to their location in the damp valley floor, the remains of the wooden houses were excellently preserved. Excavations in 1952 and 1960 uncovered 15 buildings in parts. The size of the settlement could be determined in 2014 by drilling sondages on over 9,000 m<sup>2</sup>. According to the tree ring data of the building timber, the first village was built in 3955 B.C. - after several fires and reconstructions it was abandoned just under 100 years later.



Among the numerous recovered objects made of stone, bone, antlers and ceramics, one find group stands out in particular: flat, almost round discs of various sizes made of limestone with a double perforation in the middle. On one side they are decorated at the edges with straight or triangular radial patterns. These were originally filled with a black paste so that the patterns were clearly visible. Apart from finished specimens, often with traces of use, there are many blanks and unfinished pieces. Apparently these discs were only made and used in this village.

They still present a puzzle to archaeological research today: the exhibition shows a representative cross-section of the approximately 200 discs and - also with the help of experimental archaeology - explores the exciting question of their interpretation and use.

**Press Conference | Tue | 12 May 2020 | 11 a.m.**  
**With the curator Kurt Wehrberger, M.A.**

Fig.: Stone discs from the excavation, 1960, diameter max. 6.9 cm; Photo Landesmuseum Württemberg, H. Zwietsch

Further information on the exhibition programme is also available at [www.museumulm.de](http://www.museumulm.de).

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**New Opening Hours**  
Tue - Sun : 11 a.m. - 05 p.m.  
Thu : 11 a.m. - 06 p.m.  
[www.museumulm.de](http://www.museumulm.de)