

A GUIDE



THE  
INCEST  
MUSEUM

AN EROTIC SURVEY OF MANKIND  
FROM FRONT TO BACK AND SIDEWAYS

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## MAN

### AN HISTORICAL SURVEY OF ANCESTRY AND INCEST

Little is understood of our earliest ancestors. Everything we know has been pieced together by archeologists from a few dusty fragments, the oldest of which were found in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, Africa, where The Museum of Incest stands. As it is the scientist's role to tell us what these simple bone and flint findings mean to us today, only minor advances have been made in the cultural interpretation of the problem that these ancestral findings pose. When Louis Leakey described the half man, half beast *Homo habilis* in 1964, it was hailed as the discovery of not only the earliest known human being to have walked the earth, but the absolute root to the human race – the ancestor of every man since. Underneath the pure veneer of this scientific conclusion is, however, a more complex, murky question that concerns every one of our own species of humanity, a species that has supposedly descended from *H.habilis*: How could our ancient ancestors have reproduced without practicing incest? And thus, is the human race a product of incest? The findings not only suggest that the most powerful sexual taboo in the modern world was in fact born with the first man, but that humanity is impossibly linked with its own punishment, striving eternally to banish what has been within its nature since its conception. It is on these grounds that The Museum of Incest is founded, standing alone as the first institution to present to the public the complexity of the incest conundrum as a historic phenomenon.

*Homo habilis* does not appear to be a 'modern' human being. With a raised forehead and protruding jaw, his cranial features are more likely to be linked to an ape species than our upright walking kin. So, why is he largely considered to be First Man? The answer lies not in his body but in the discoveries that

surrounded his body – stone tools. *Homo habilis*, which is Latin for 'handy man', was the first known creature to have used self-crafted flints to hunt, kill and create fires – to manipulate the natural world around him and thus possess an immense power over the other animals. In this respect the flint is understood as the beginning of technology, without which it would be impossible to imagine our modern world today.

However, coupled with this miraculous invention is a more sinister reality, for it is impossible to ignore the fact that the flint was not only an object of creation but one of destruction – a weapon. In the discovery of the flint, man not only found the secret to creating civilization but also the tool to destroying it. In short, the flint is the prelude to civilization and the prelude to the apocalypse. This is the romantic quandary we find ourselves in when we begin to unravel the philosophical meaning of these discoveries, which not only shake the pure foundations of the myth of human origins, but also question our understanding of linear time. For in the flint is an impossible riddle – the beginning and the end of the human world meet in one moment – the super-past and the super-future instantly formed in 1964. This conundrum of time is the precise reason the Olduvai Gorge site was chosen to host The Museum of Incest. Representing taboo where sexual lineage no longer moves from one generation to the next but, in the copulating of father and daughter, mother and son begins to float backwards, the futuristic museum sits anachronistically in the ancient landscape. And so it is here, in the 'Cradle of Mankind' that we welcome you to The Museum of Incest, where generations of fathers, brothers and lovers are suspended in a timeless vacuum – when *H.habilis* tied human civilization into a knot.



Model for the Museum of Incest.