

MEGIDDO IVORIES



COLORING BOOK

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Megiddo: A City Unearthed, A Past Imagined
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Illustrations, text, and design by Kiersten Neumann

Cover: Colored illustration of a female sphinx plaque (no. 10)
Megiddo b 2132, Rockefeller Archaeological Museum 38.828

Title page: Illustration of a double convex disc with an ibex and a palm (no. 3)
Megiddo b 2038, ISAC Museum A22232

Back cover: Photograph of a female sphinx plaque
Megiddo b 2007, ISAC Museum A22213



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KIERSTEN NEUMANN

Dedicated to Claire, Eleanor, and Madelyn





Map showing the great powers of the Late Bronze Age (about 1550–1200 BCE)
across the Mediterranean, West Asia, and North Africa

THE GREAT POWERS OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE



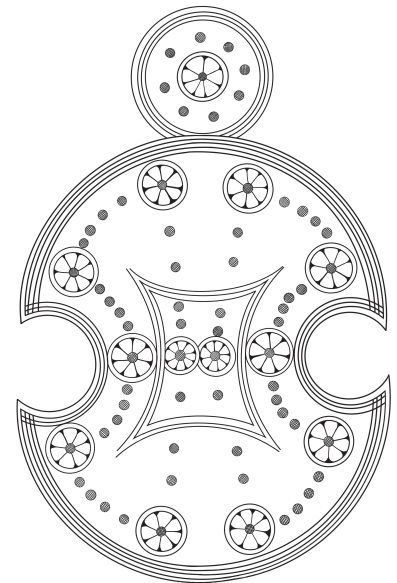
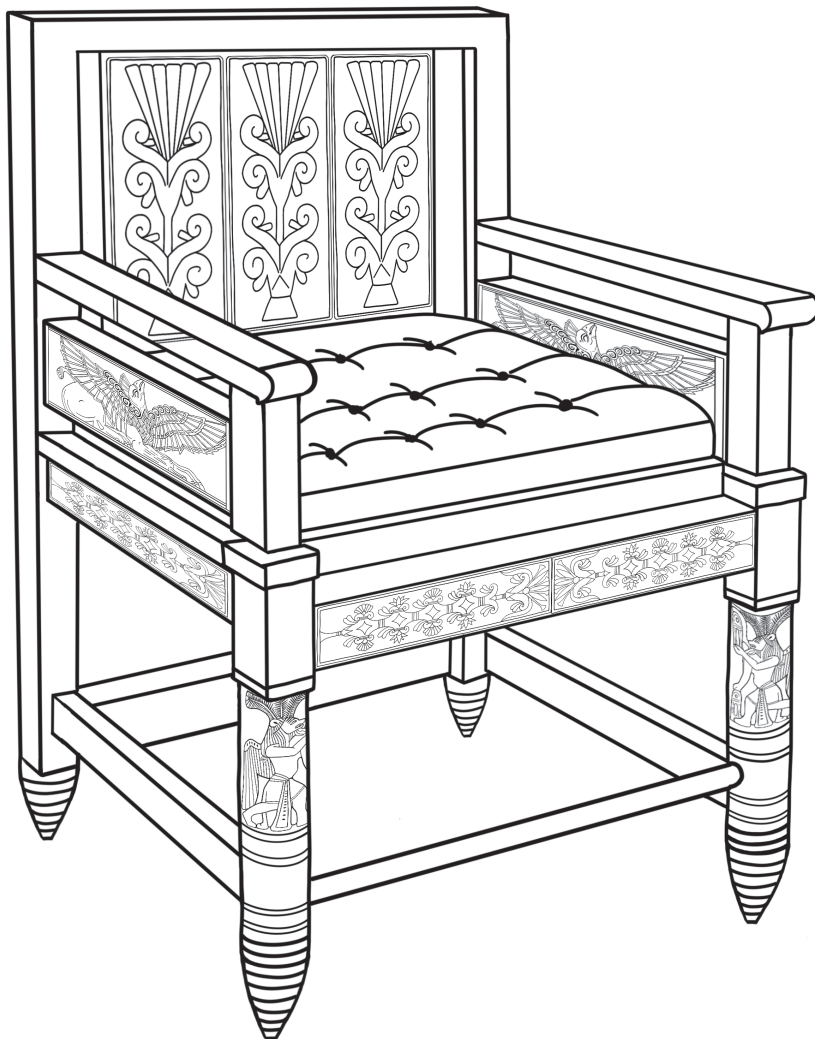
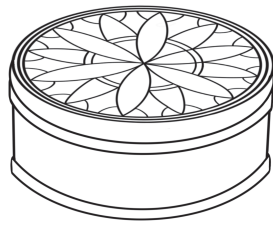
Over 3,000 years ago, during the Late Bronze Age (about 1550–1200 BCE), powerful empires and kingdoms ruled lands across the Mediterranean, West Asia, and North Africa. Egypt controlled a large area along the Nile River. Other great powers, such as Kassite Babylonia, Assyria, Mitanni, the Hittite Empire, and Mycenaean Greece, ruled nearby regions. These powers traded goods, sent gifts to one another, and sometimes fought wars.

Megiddo was an important city in this world. It stood in a narrow pass that joined Egypt and the Mediterranean with West Asia. Whoever controlled Megiddo controlled this busy trade route! Merchants carrying goods, messengers with royal letters, and even armies passed through the city.

At this time, Megiddo was a Canaanite city-state. In the 15th century BCE, the Egyptian pharaoh Thutmose III defeated Megiddo and made it part of Egypt's empire. Even then, the city remained a meeting place where people, goods, and ideas from many cultures came together.

Archaeologists (scientists who study the past) have found objects at Megiddo from faraway places, such as Assyria, Cyprus, and Greece. These discoveries show how connected the ancient world was. Many of these objects were made from precious materials, such as gold jewelry and ivory carvings. These items reveal the wealth and power of Megiddo's rulers.

Explore the furniture, objects, and incredible decorations from these many cultures to spark your imagination—then color the Megiddo ivories to bring their stories to life!



CARVED IVORIES FROM MEGIDDO



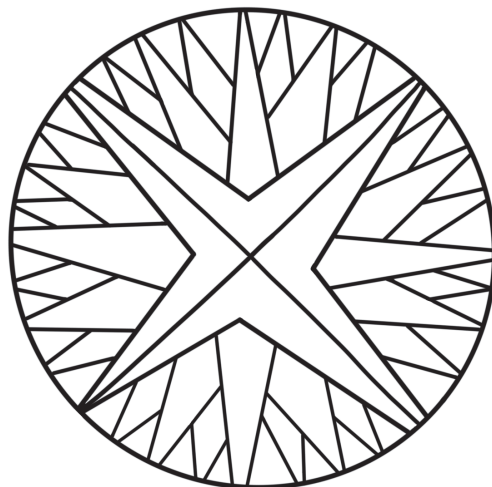
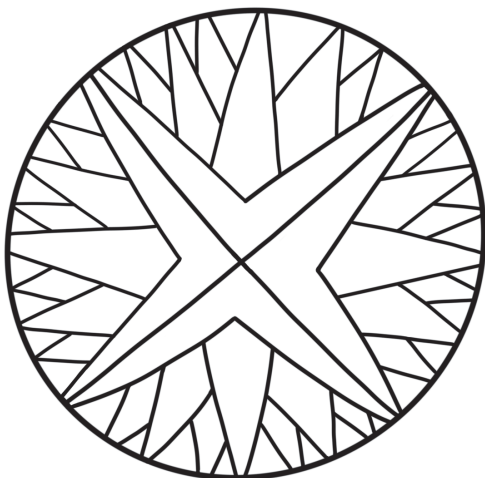
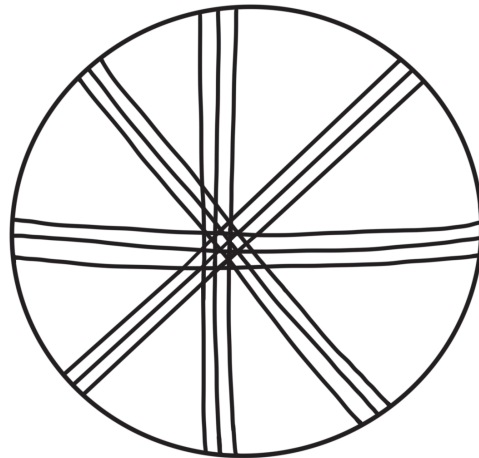
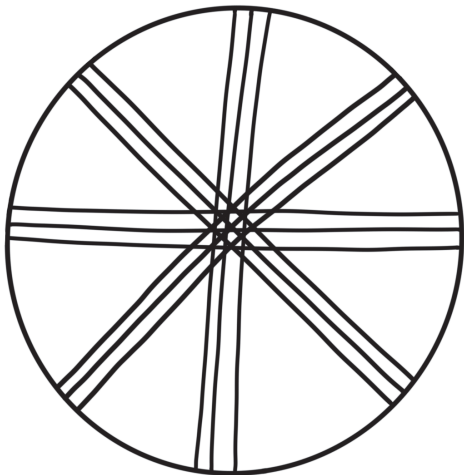
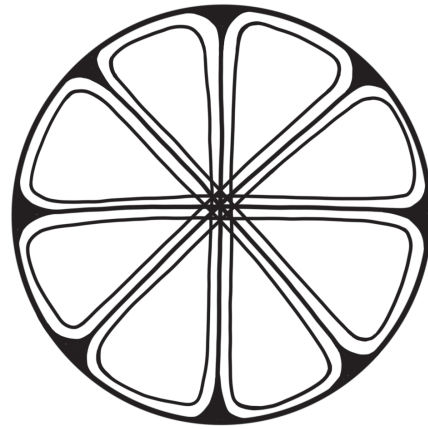
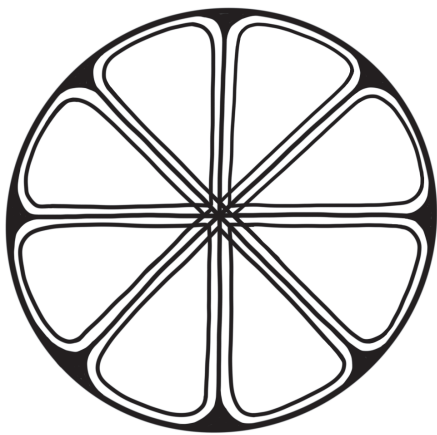
The illustrations in this book are based on carved ivory pieces found at Megiddo. A century ago, archaeologists from the University of Chicago's Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures discovered 368 of these pieces hidden beneath the floor of a Late Bronze Age palace. They were buried there over 3,000 years ago, likely to keep them safe during a time of trouble. Some pieces were still complete, but others were damaged or broken.

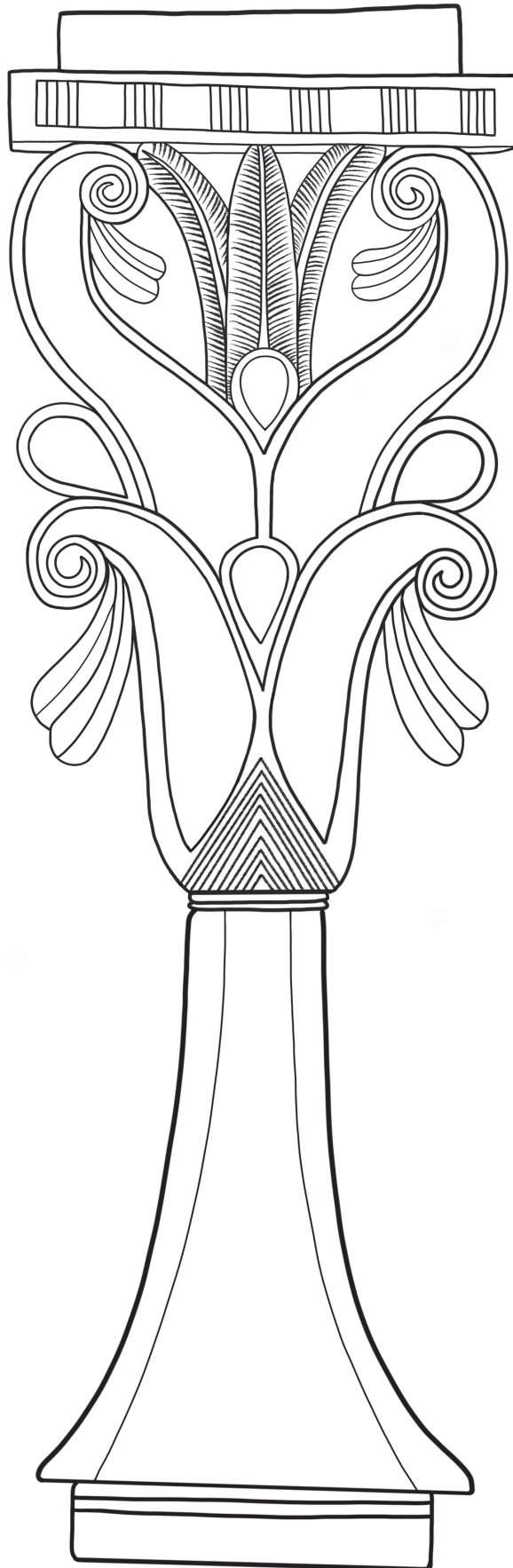
Ivory is a smooth, light-colored material that comes from the teeth or tusks of large animals like elephants or hippopotamuses. In the ancient world, ivory was very valuable, and was a sign of wealth and power. Skilled artists carefully carved it into many shapes and designs. Some pieces were flat plaques with patterns or images of people, animals, or gods. These decorated wooden furniture, such as chairs and stools. Other pieces were small containers with lids, hair combs, game boards, and game pieces.

The ivories from Megiddo show how far ideas and styles traveled in the ancient world. They mix designs from Egypt, Canaan, Babylonia, Assyria, Mitanni, the Hittite Empire, and Mycenaean Greece. These objects tell us about art, trade, and luxury in a world that was both local and global.

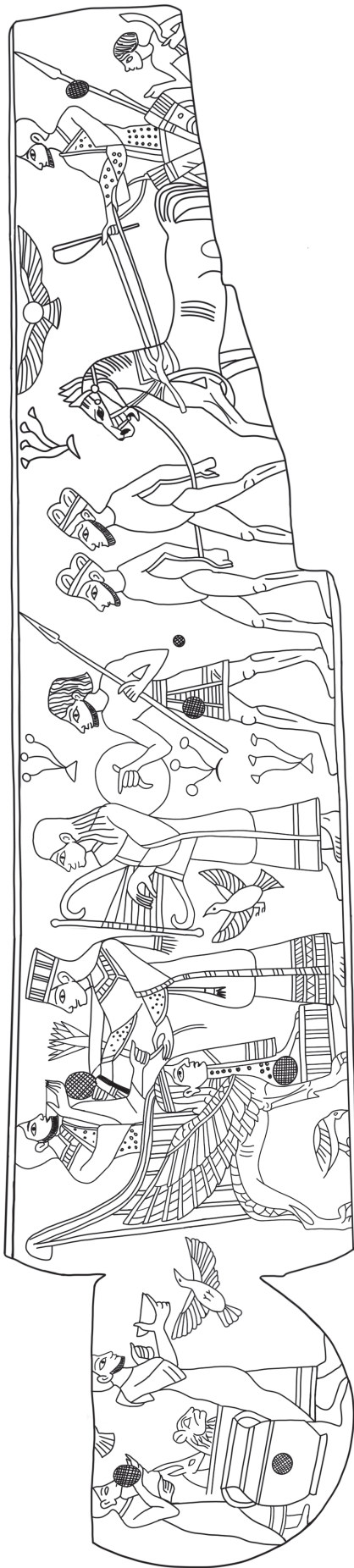
Some carvings were solid, while others were “openwork,” which means the artist cut away parts of the piece to create a lacelike design. Traces of paint on some pieces—blue, black, yellow, and even gold—show they were once colorful. As you color these illustrations, imagine how bright and beautiful these ivories looked when they decorated palaces long ago!

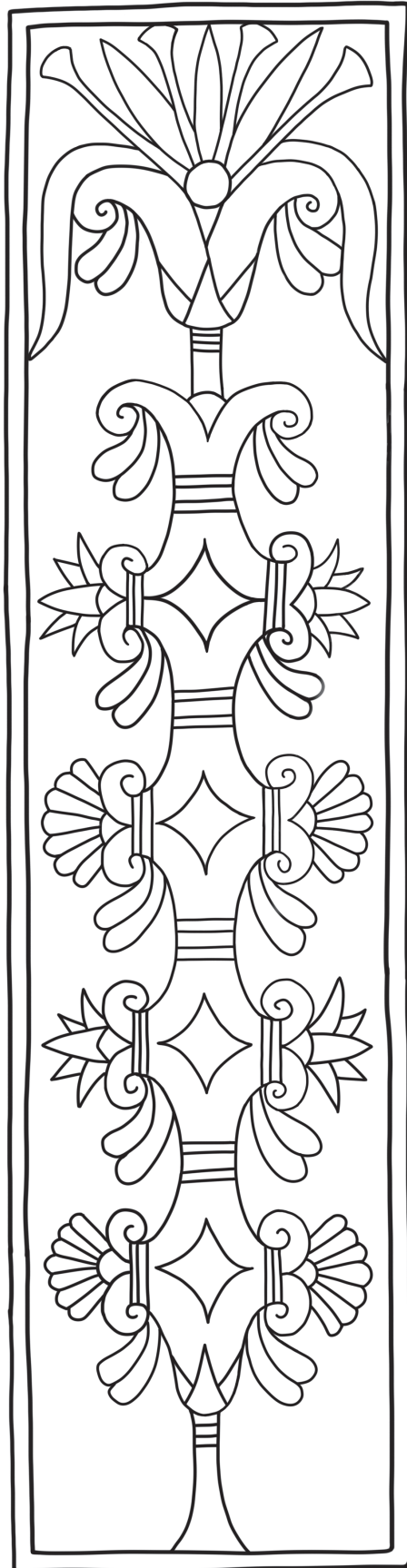
If you want to know more about each illustration, see the list inside the back cover. It includes a description and the correlation between illustration number, Megiddo field number, and either ISAC Museum or Rockefeller Archaeological Museum number.

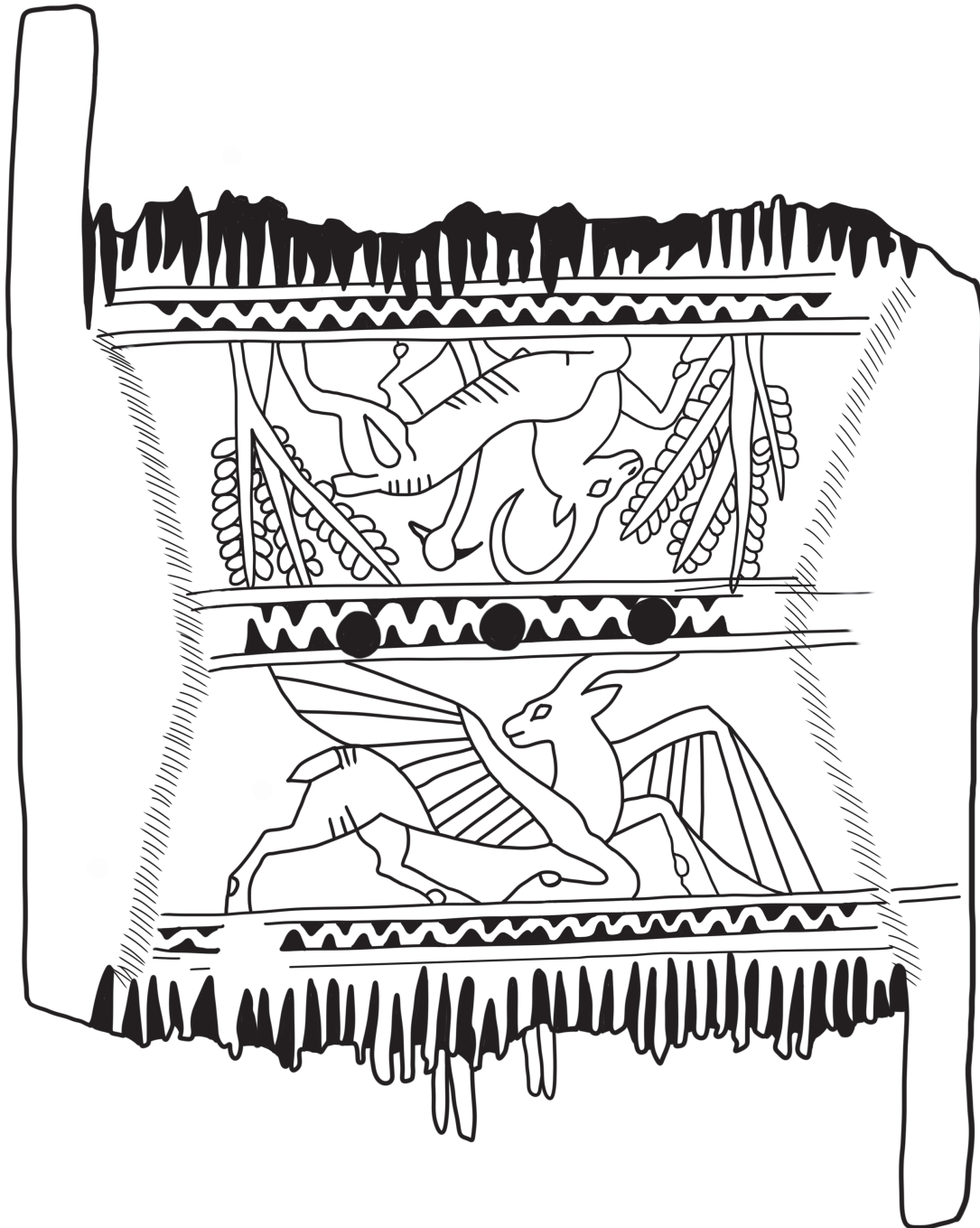


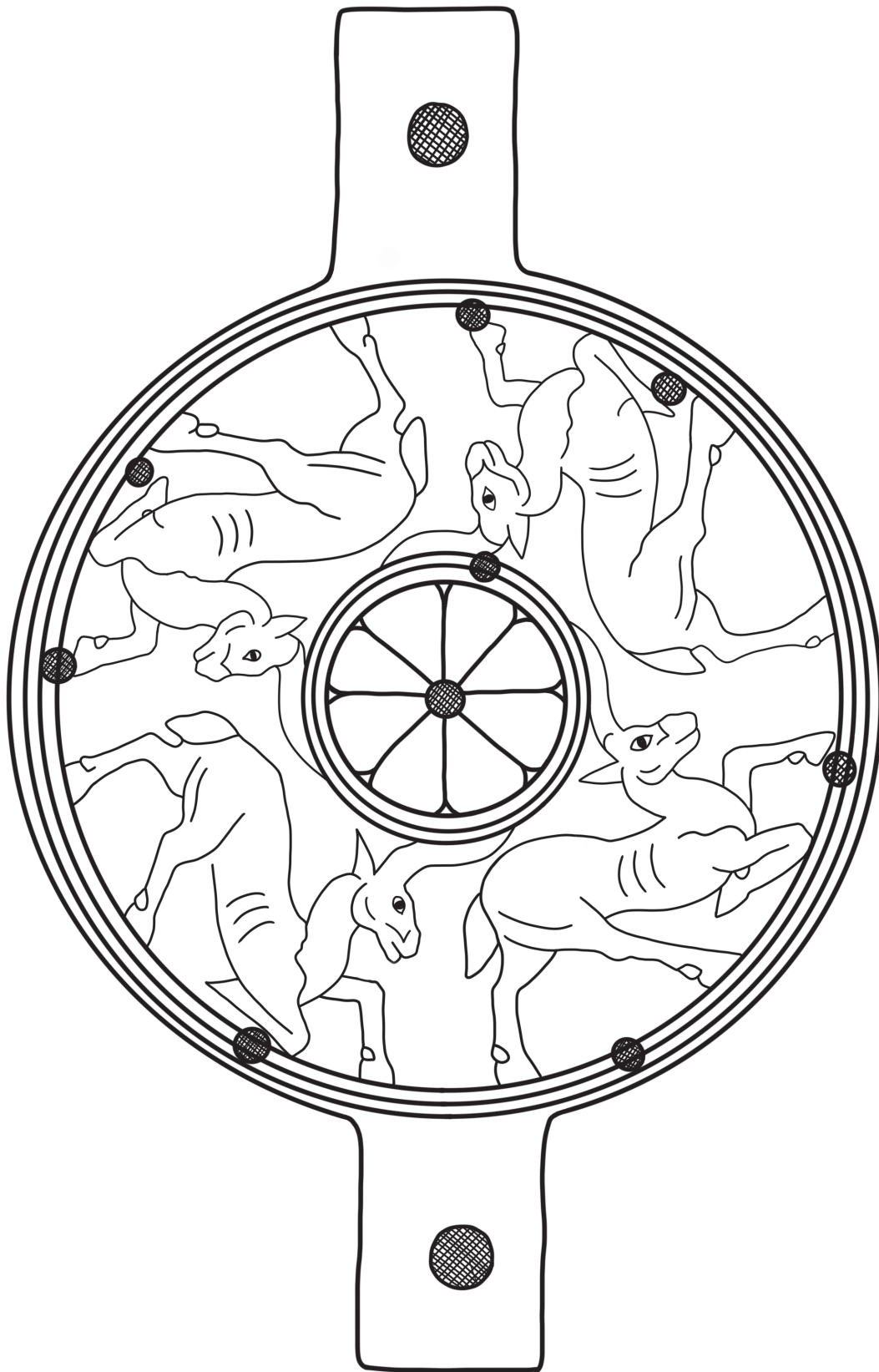




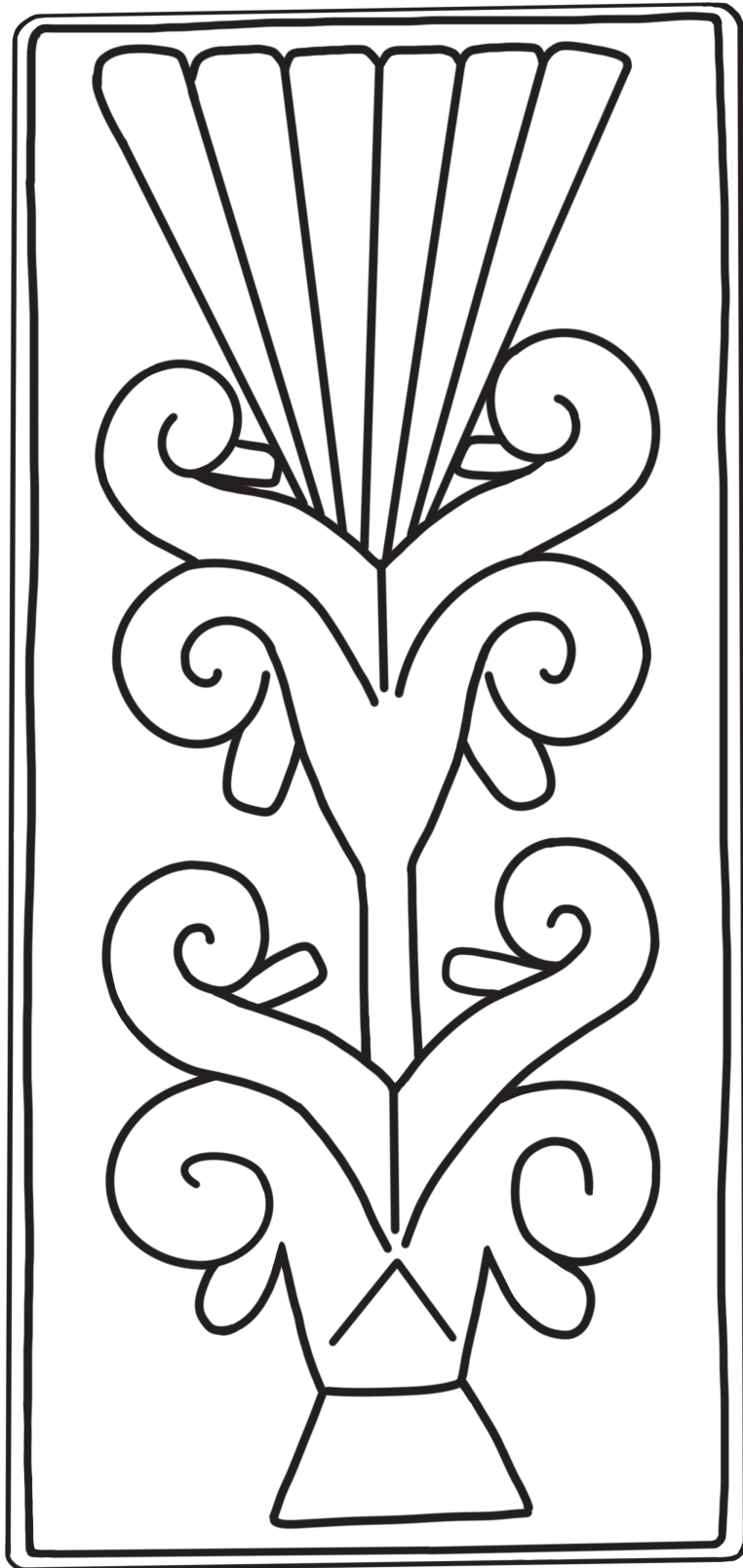




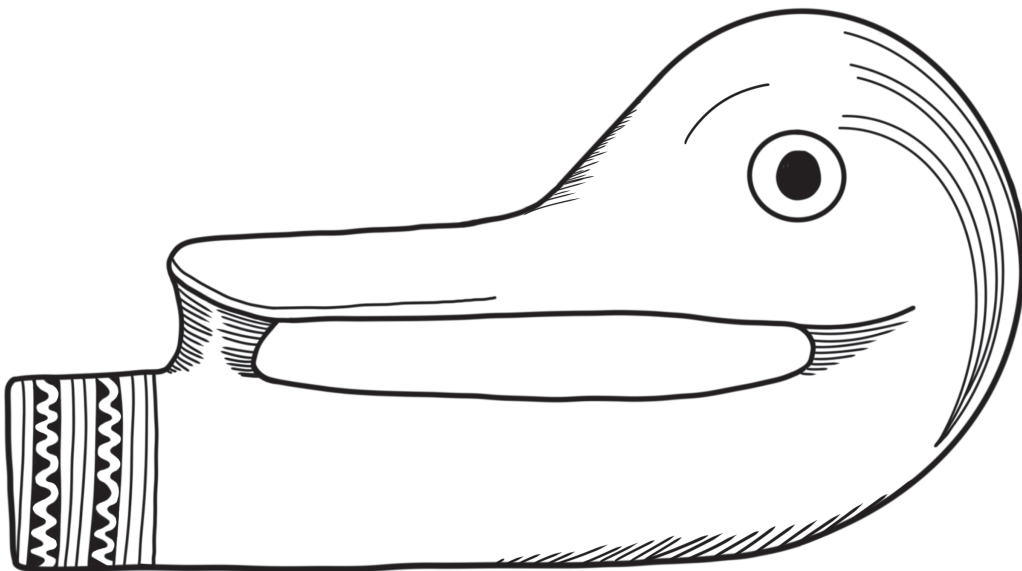
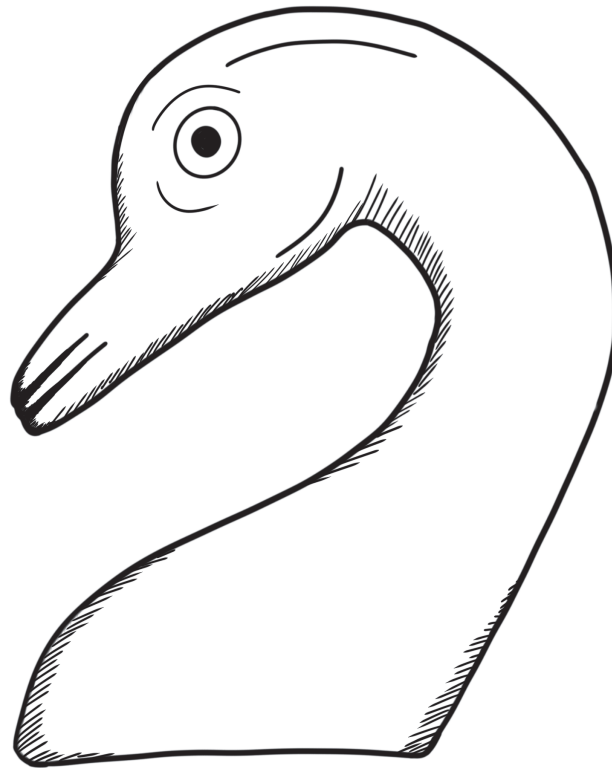


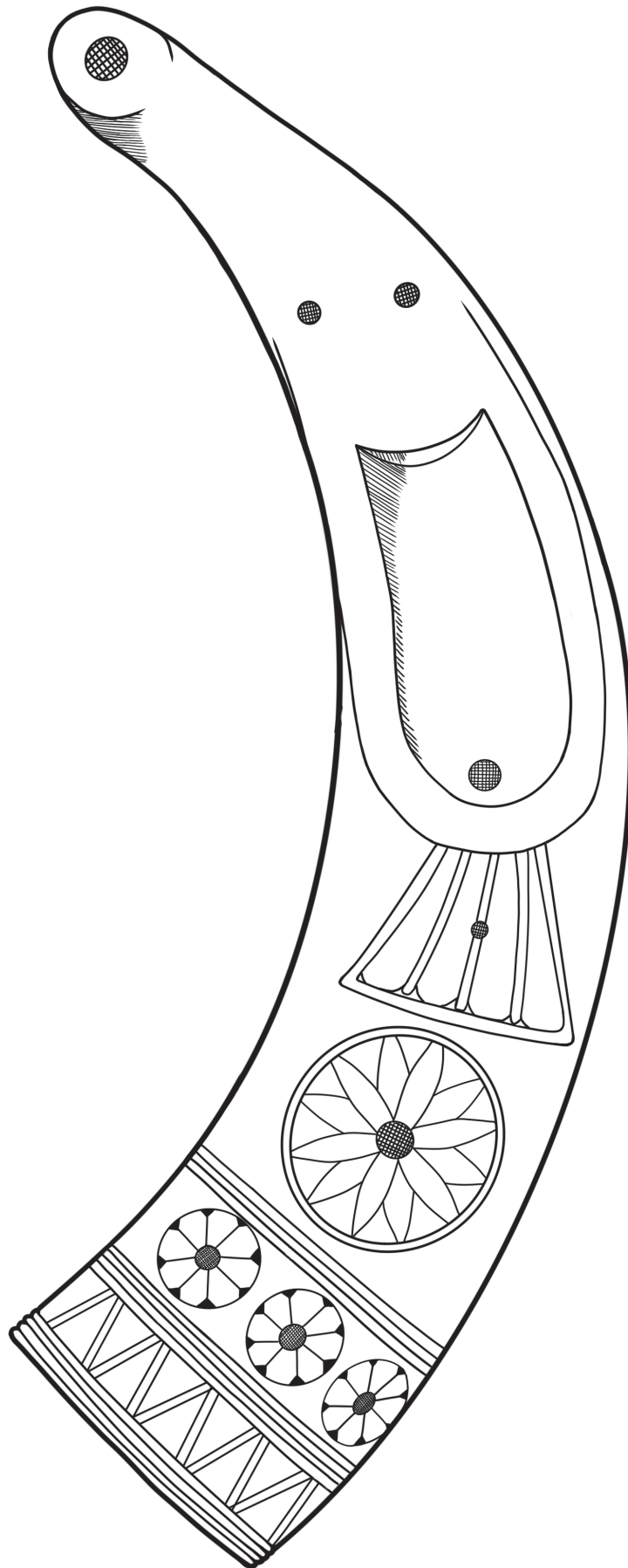


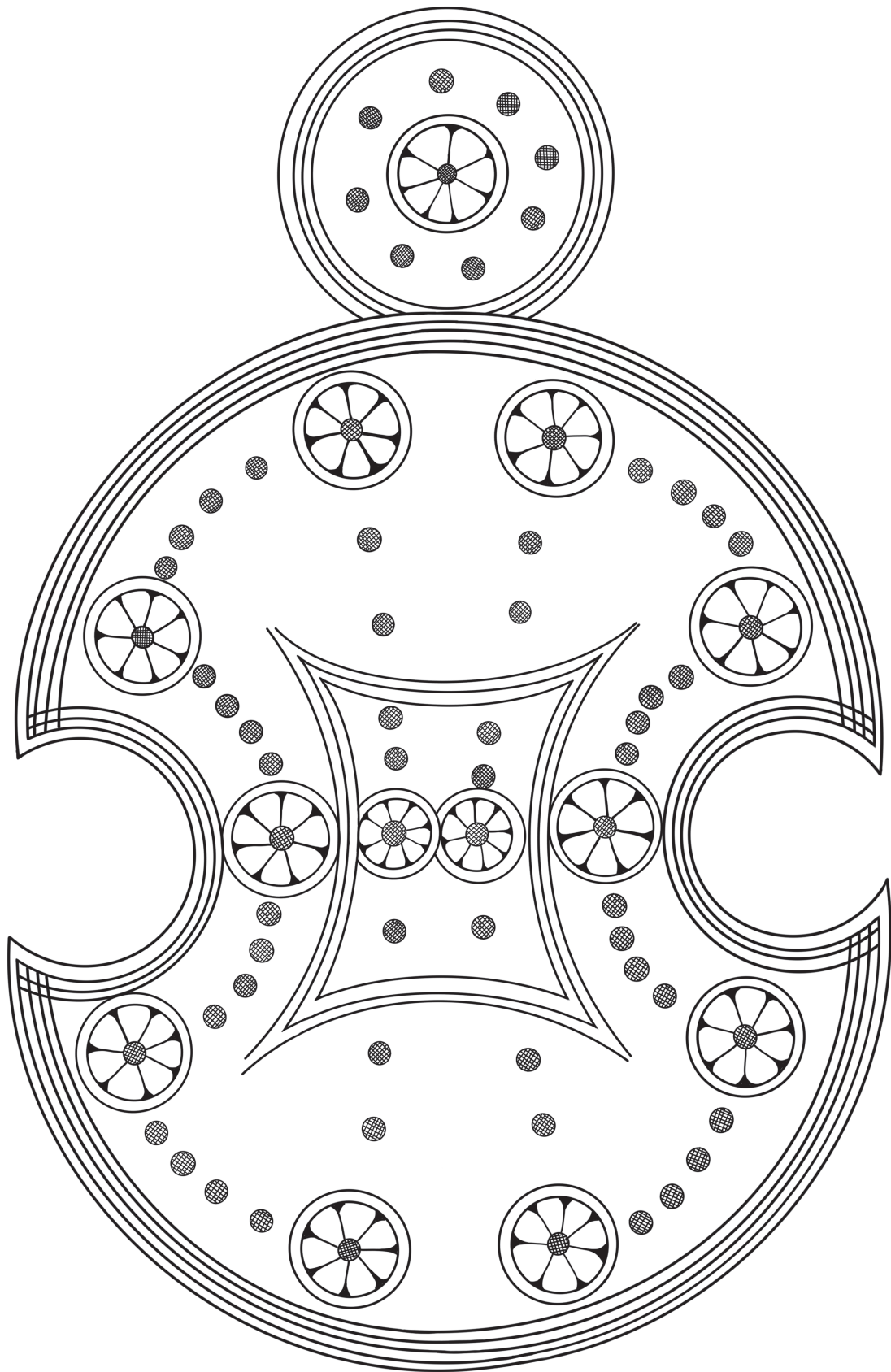


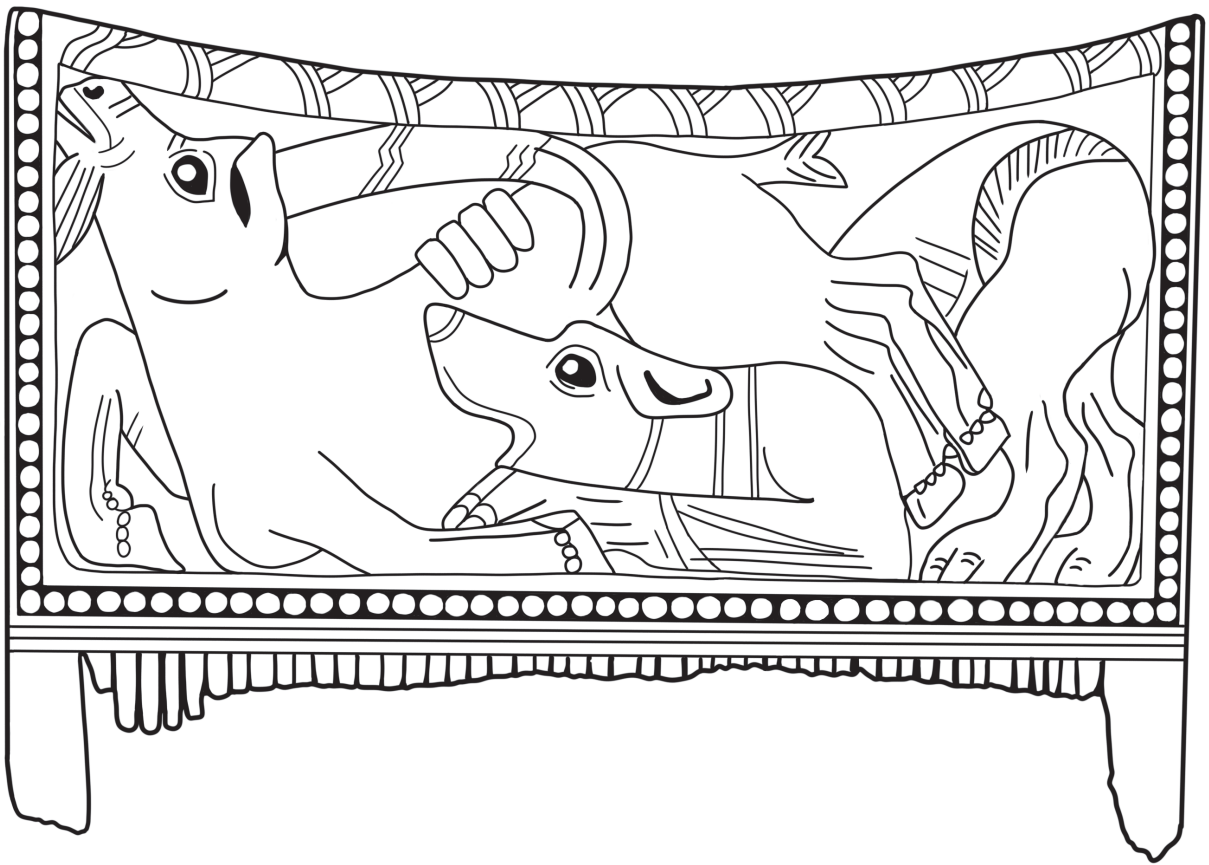






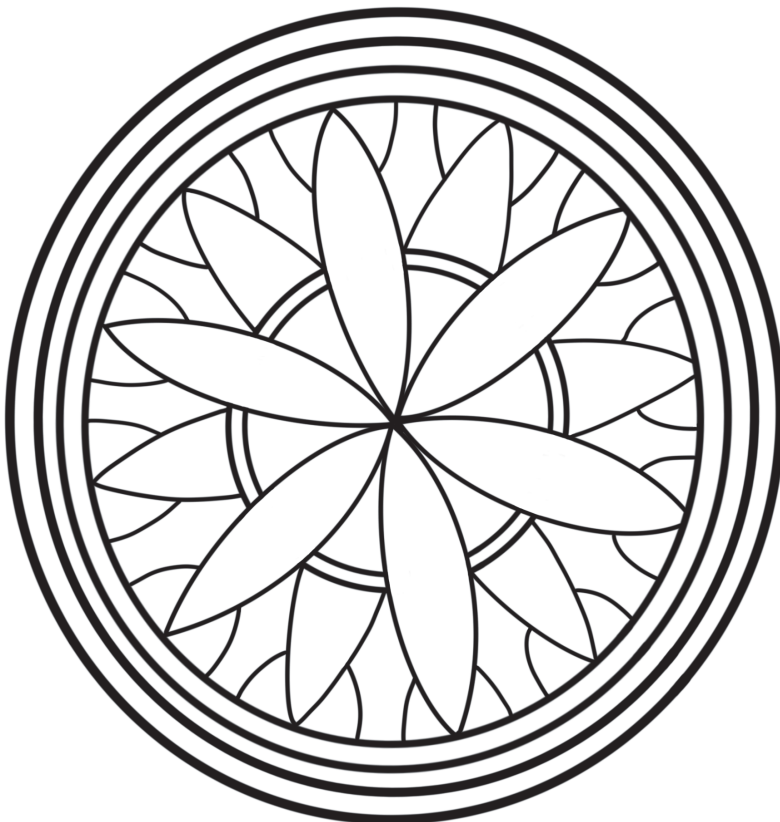
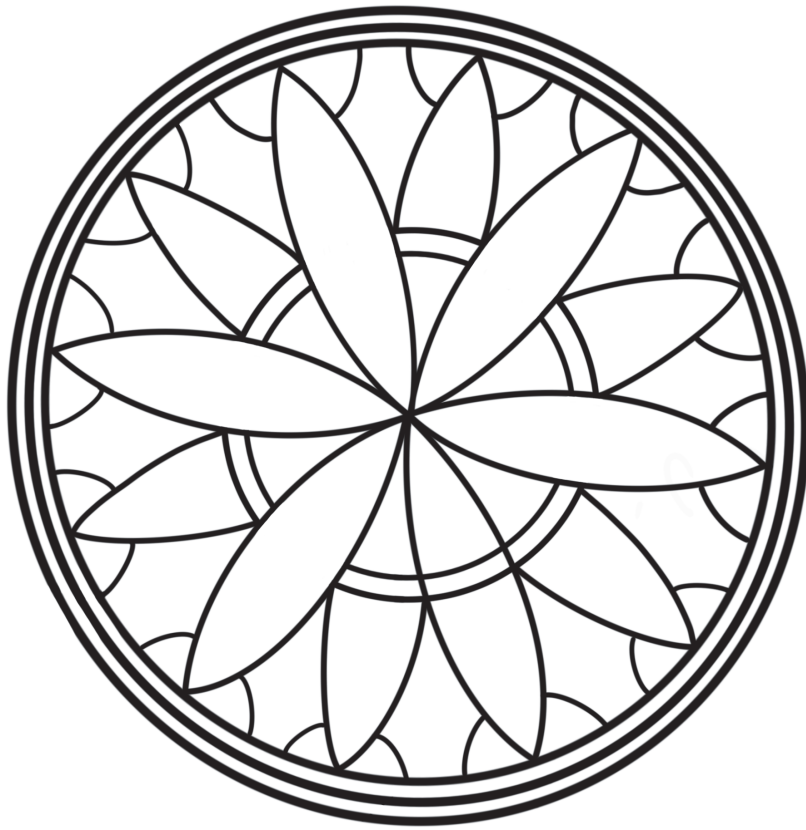






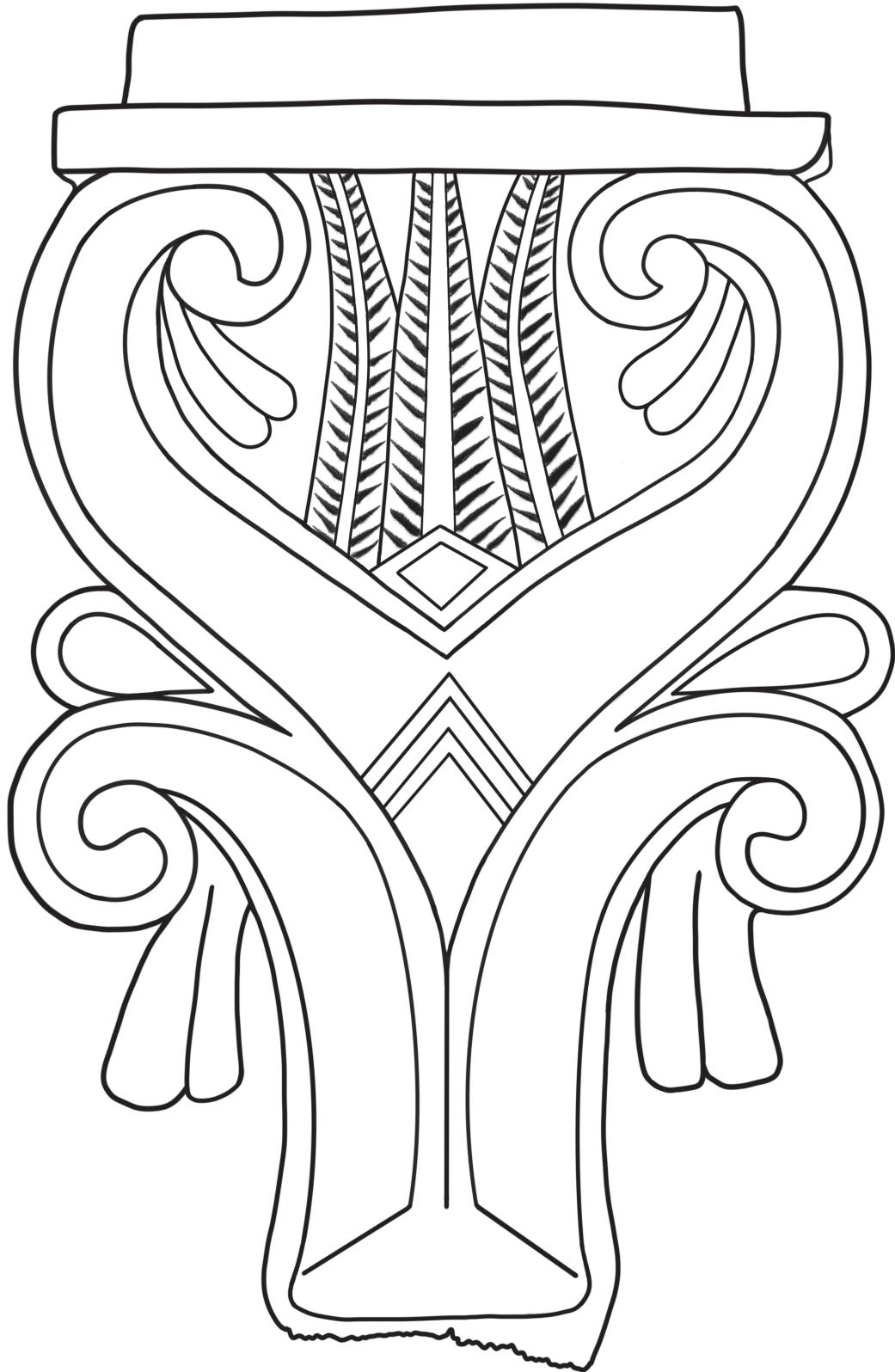




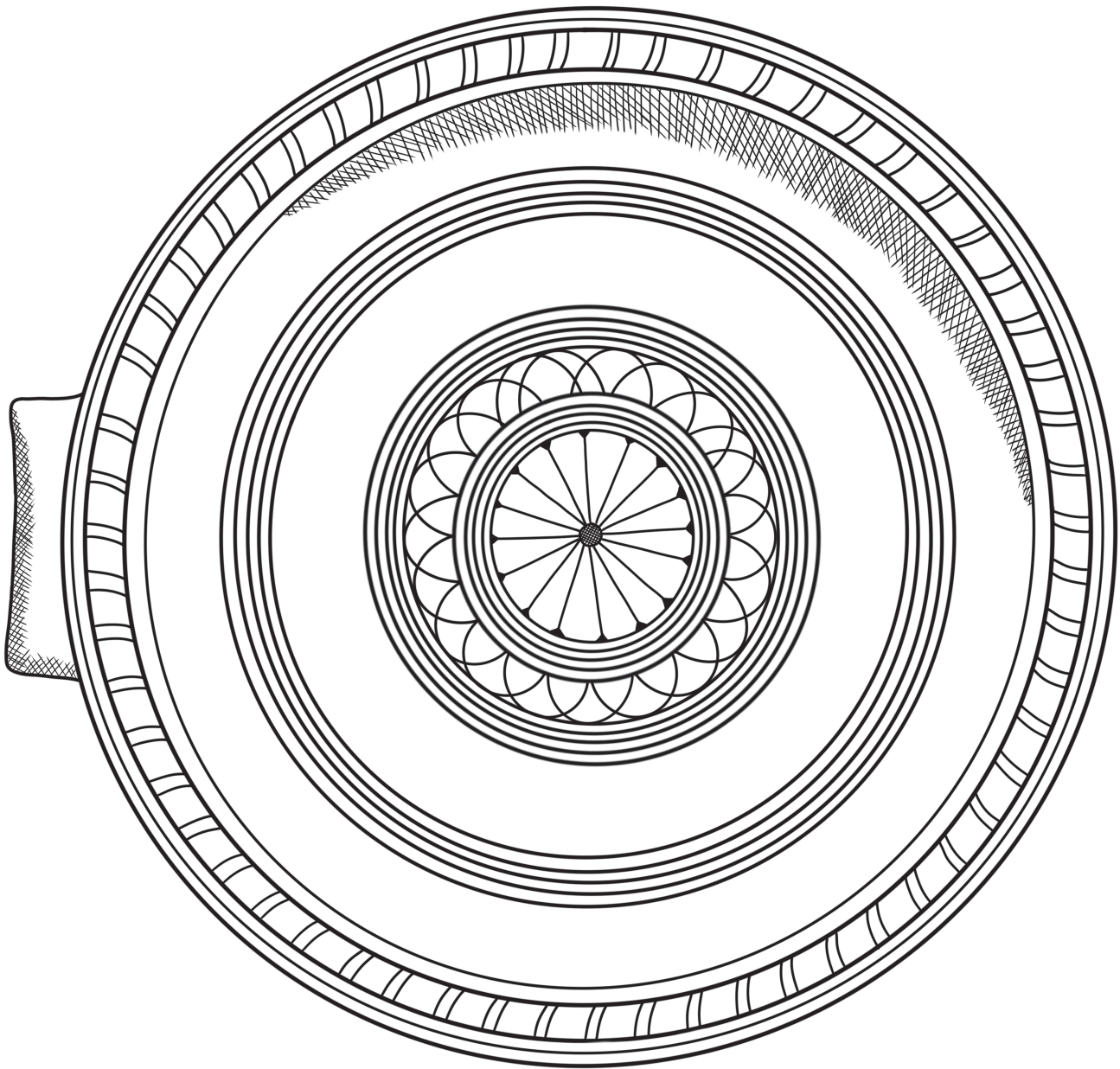


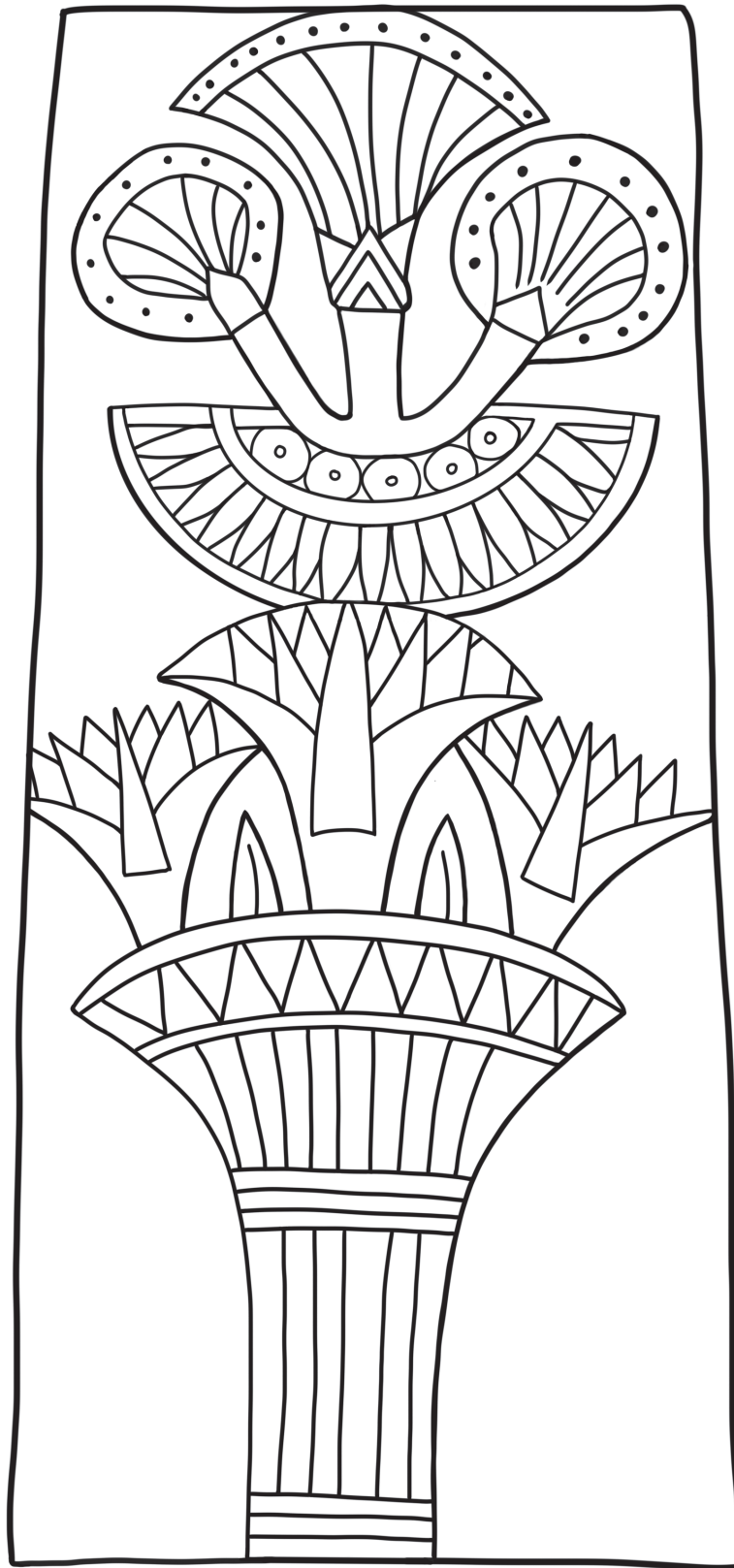


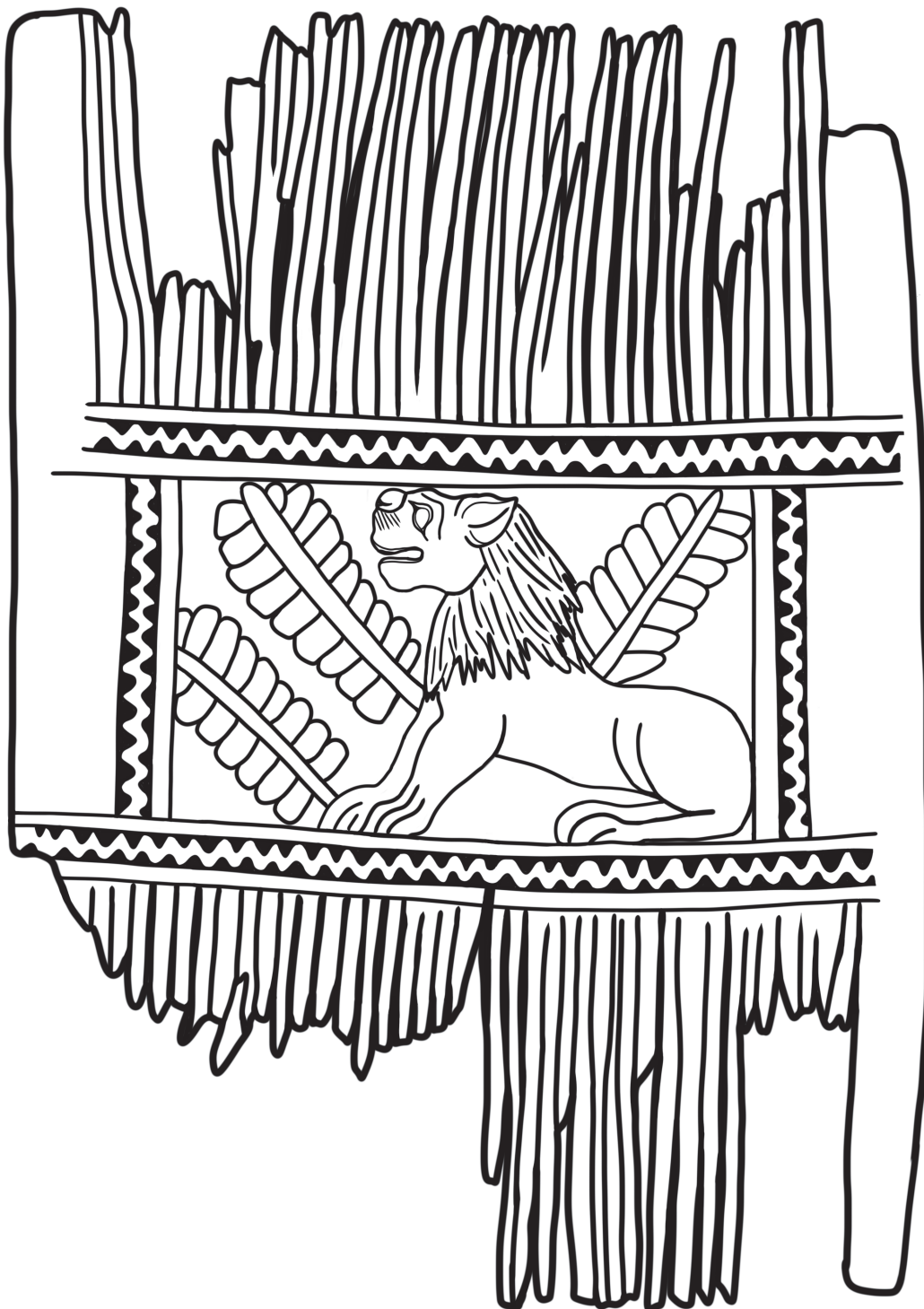


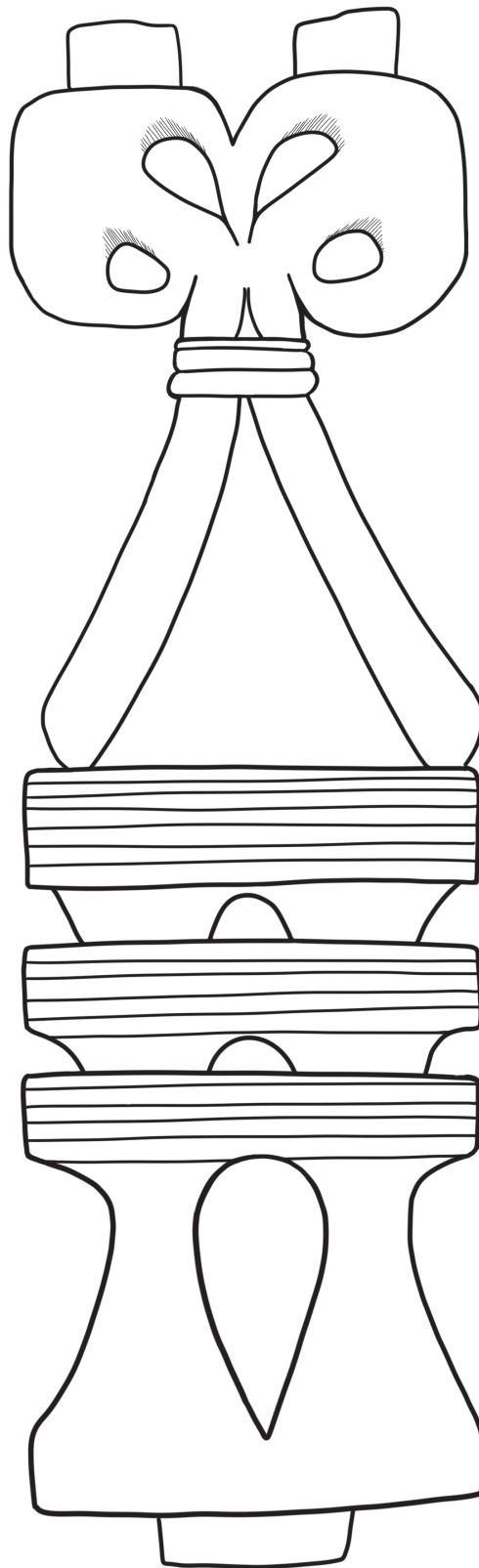












ILLUSTRATION, FIELD, AND MUSEUM NUMBERS

Illustrations		Field Numbers	Museum Numbers
			A = ISAC Museum, Chicago 38 = Rockefeller Archaeological Museum, Jerusalem
1	Game pieces with abstract designs	b 2034, b 2035, b 2032, b 2031, b 2029, b 2028	38.791, A22230, 38.790, A22228, 38.789, A22226
2	Furniture plaque with palmette motif	b 2103	A22273
3	Double convex disc (likely a game piece) with ibex and palm	b 2038	A22232
4	Furniture plaque with scene of tribute bearers and captives	b 2005	38.780
5	Furniture plaque with lotus-and-palmette motif	b 2010	38.783
6	Double comb with ibexes and trees	b 2002	38.779
7	Jar lid with procession of horned animals	b 2048	A22237
8	Furniture plaque with griffin	b 2006	A22212
9	Furniture plaque with palmette motif	b 2009	38.782
10	Furniture plaque with sphinx	b 2132	38.828
11	Duck heads	b 2189, b 2083	38.850, A22260
12	Horn-shaped container with incised duck tail and holes for attaching duck head and wings	b 2023	A22221
13	Game board for “Fifty-Eight Holes”	b 2146	38.833
14	Single comb with ibex and dog	b 2001	38.778
15	Handle with palmette motif	b 2015	A22216
16	Furniture plaque with robed figure	b 2079 + b 2256	A22258 + A22376
17	Jar lids with rosette motifs	b 2039, b 2050	38.793, A22239
18	Ornament with pair of ibexes	b 2021	A22220A
19	Plaque with winged “Bes” figure	b 2008	38.781
20	Plaque with palmette motif	b 2065	38.803
21	Furniture plaque with female head	b 2089	A22265
22	Bowl with abstract designs	b 2126	A22285
23	Furniture plaque with lotus-and-palmette motif	b 2012	A22215
24	Double comb with lion and trees	b 2140	A22295
25	Furniture plaque with Egyptian <i>djed</i> -pillar and lotus motif	b 2025 + b 2026	A22223 + A22224

TIMELESS DESIGNS FROM THE LATE BRONZE AGE TO EXPLORE AND COLOR

Uncover the art of the ancient world through 25 hand-drawn illustrations based on carved ivories from Megiddo, a powerful city in the Late Bronze Age. These ivories—once part of furniture, boxes, and other luxury items—show animals, humans, gods, and beautiful patterns drawn from the diverse cultures of West Asia, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. This coloring book invites children and adults alike to engage with history through bold colors and rich imagery—a unique window into a deeply connected world.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
ANCIENT CULTURES MUSEUM**
West Asia & North Africa

