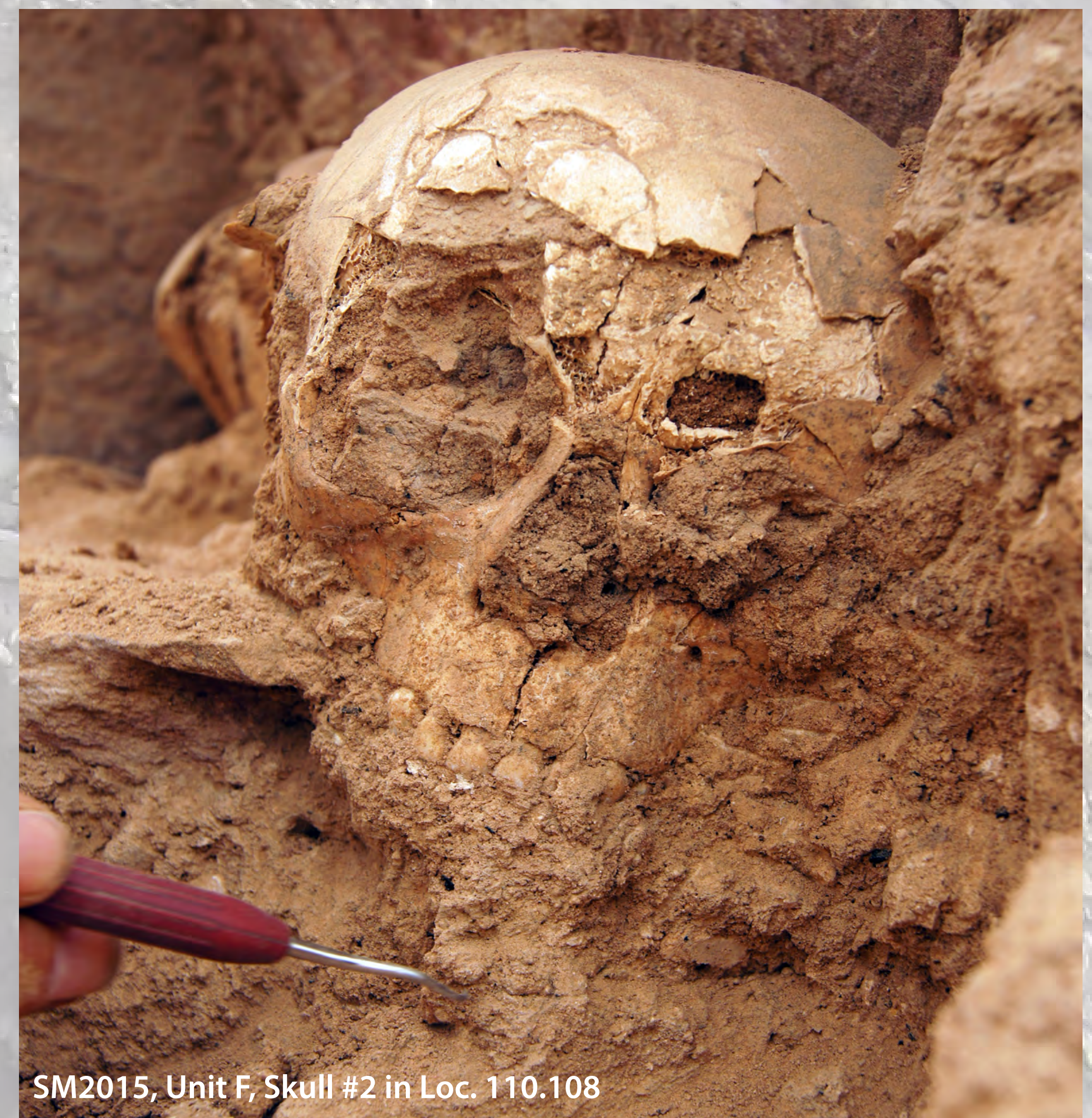
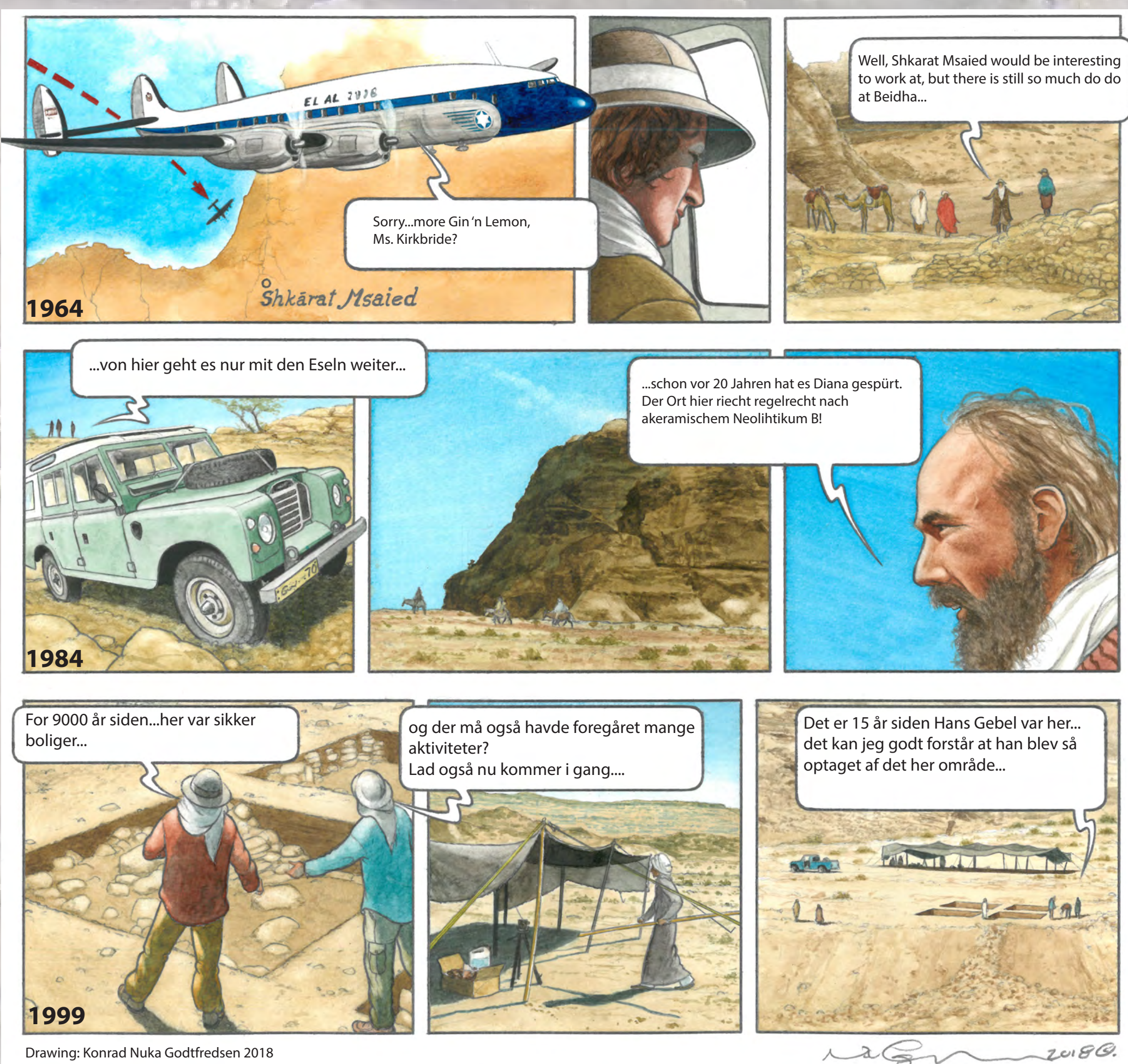


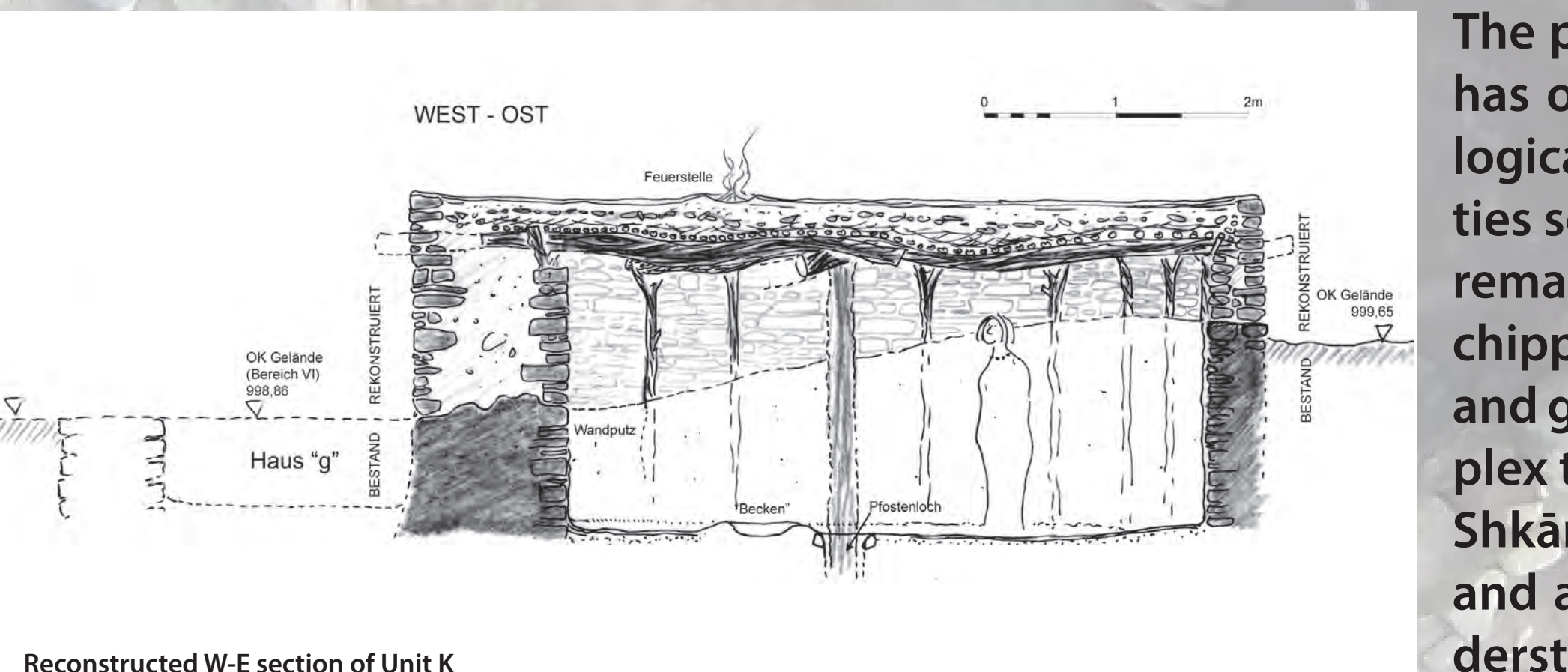
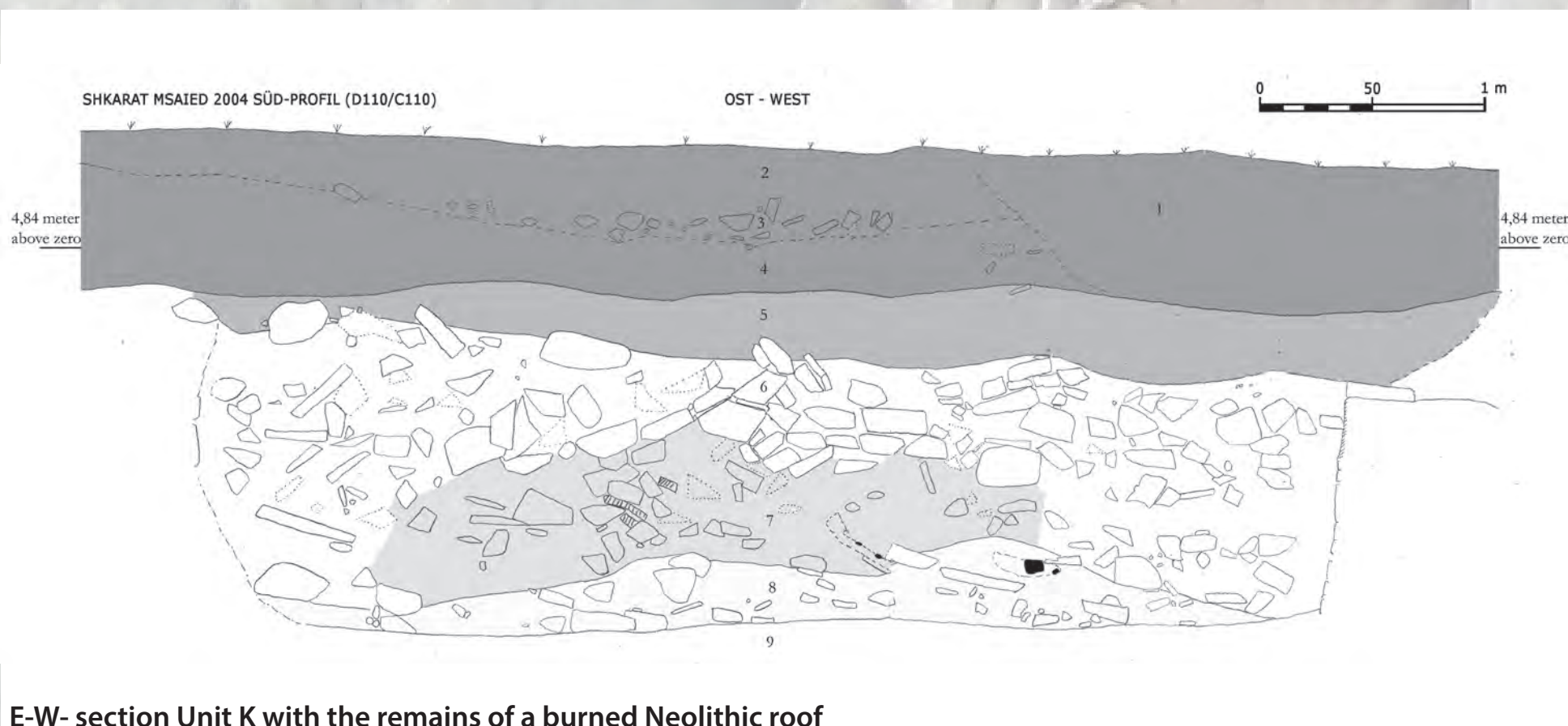
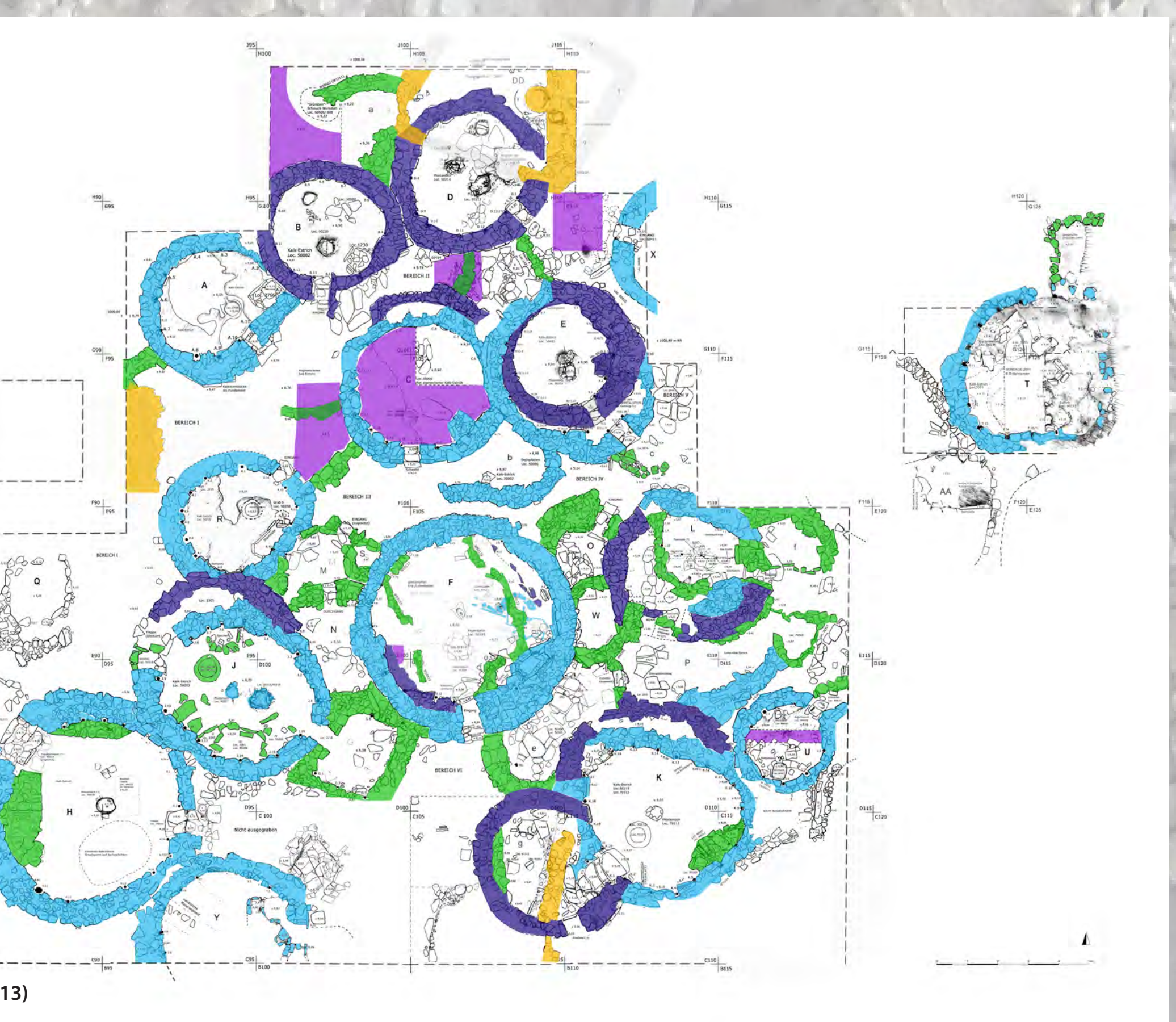
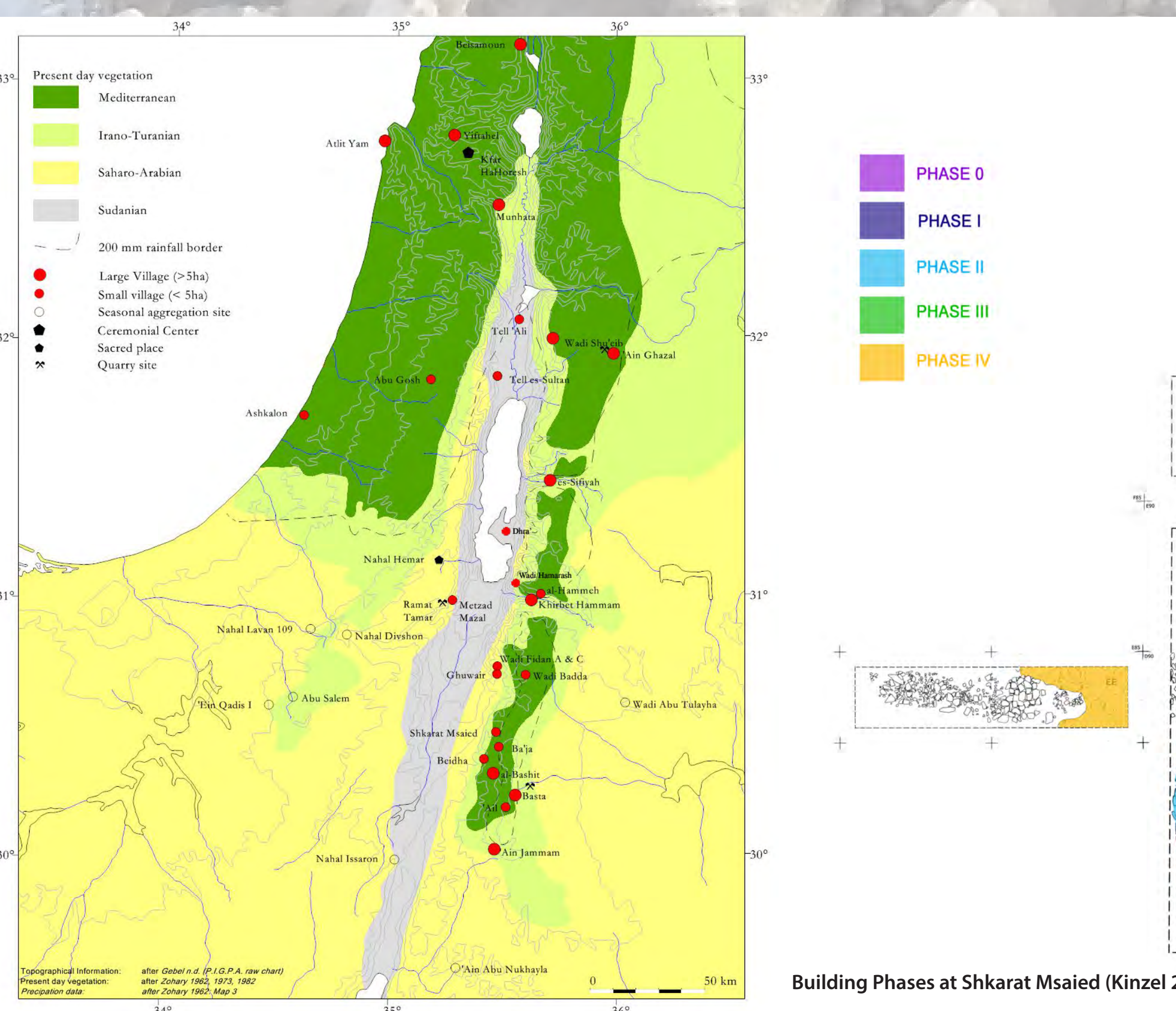
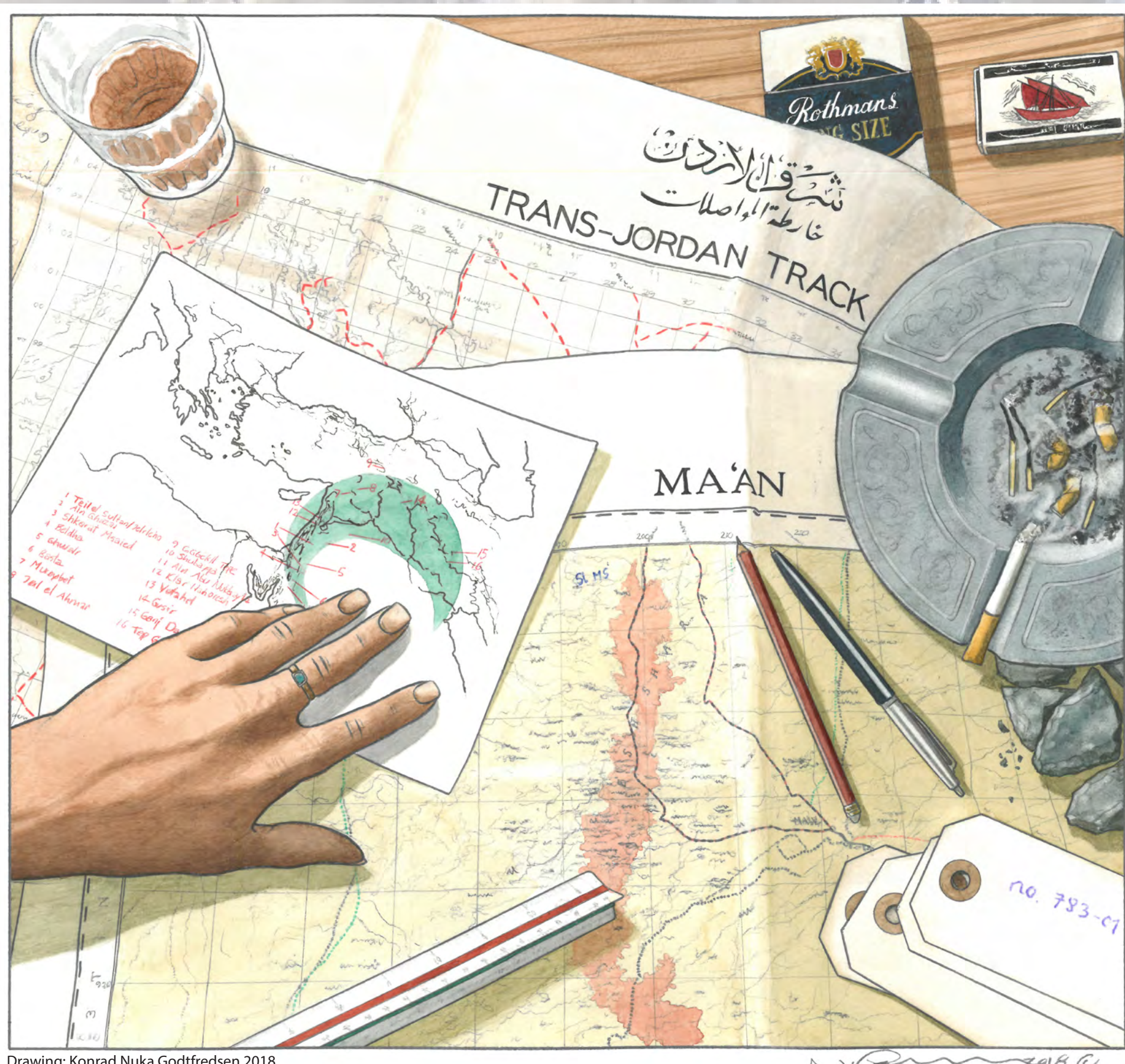
SHKARAT MSAIED NEOLITHIC PROJECT



The Shkarat Msaied Neolithic Project conducts archaeological research at a site dating to the 9th millennium B.P. Shkarat Msaied is located in the sandstone mountain area c. 13 km north of Petra, and it consists of a settlement belonging to the Middle Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period (9.200-8.500 B.P.).

It was inhabited in a period marked by crucial developments in subsistence strategies as people began to experiment with cultivation of plants and herding of animals. The stone built architecture at the site is well-preserved and shows a series of modifications and rebuilding activities. Despite the presence of permanent structures the settlement was possibly only used seasonally.

The semi-arid landscape on which the Shkarat Msaied site is situated was mainly occupied by mobile hunter-gatherer groups, living in circular shaped buildings with a rich and diverse material culture.



The project aims at investigating the material culture of the group which has occupied the settlement in order to shed more light on the technological, ideological and social aspects among early Neolithic communities settling in semi-arid territories. Current research work focusses on the remains of architecture, animal bones, human bones, botanical remains, chipped stone, bone tools, marine mollusc artefacts and ornaments, beads and ground stone tools. Results have proved that the community had complex technological skills and an intricate social structure. Shkarat Msaied allows studying human behaviours, mortuary practices and architectural developments on a micro scale contributing to the understanding of the "Neolithic world".

