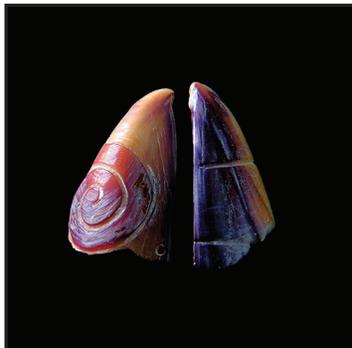


CARAL: THE FIRST CIVILIZATION IN THE AMERICAS



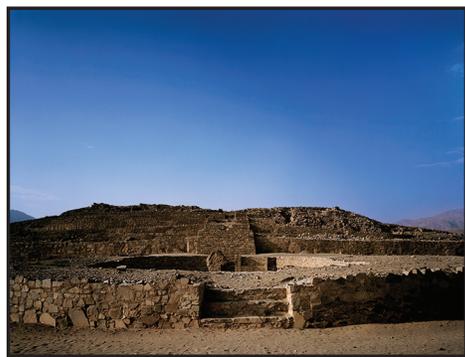
© Chris Kleihege

For the past ten years, North American photographer Chris Kleihege has been working with Peruvian archaeologist Ruth Shady in photographing the excavation of a recently discovered site, now established to be the oldest civilization in the Western Hemisphere. Capturing the monumental architecture as well as the stunning landscape in which it resides, *Caral: The First Civilization in the Americas* is the only photographic survey of this Peruvian excavation.

Cradled in the Supe Valley and surrounded by the foothills of the Andes, Caral, Peru, which radiocarbon dating has shown was in existence as early as 2627 BC, is contemporaneous with the pyramids of Egypt, ensuring its place in history as one of the first complex societal cultures. The civilization includes a main ceremonial city with six major pyramids, large plazas, amphitheatres, residential units, indeed all of the structures necessary for an urban center. Occupied for 1000 years and then abandoned and forgotten for the following 4000 years, Caral is unique of all early civilizations in that it remained buried, untouched and unremembered until very recently.

With its discovery, Caral's influence throughout South America is beginning to be understood. Construction styles and techniques developed at Caral 5000 years ago are found in the structures of the Inca from 500 years ago; a proto-Quechua, the antecedent to the language of the Incas and still spoken throughout the Andes, is being investigated as having begun at Caral. Even the famous Nasca lines appear to have earlier expressions at Caral.

The discovery of this first civilization in Caral is showcased in this exhibition of forty color photographs, including panoramic vistas, spectacular aerial views and first ever images of the distinctive artifacts that have been uncovered at the site of this preceramic society.



EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS:

Number of photographs: 40

Rental fee: \$6000 for 8 weeks Additional weeks may be booked for an extra 10% per week.







About Caral

The Caral Project, the remarkable archeological documentation of the first civilization in the Americas, is available for exhibition. With its accompanying book, these images await display in an art, archaeology, anthropology, or architecture venue.

Caral, Perú is the recently discovered city now established to be the oldest civilization in North, Central, and South America. Anthropologists and archaeologists have long considered five locations as the birthplaces of civilized man— Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India, and Mesoamerica — but Caral is acknowledged as the sixth “cradle of civilization” site, and the wellspring of the South American societies. In June 2009, UNESCO acknowledged this amazing discovery by naming Caral a World Heritage Site, calling it “the oldest centre of civilization in the Americas.”

Research has established that the site of Caral was occupied for 1,000 years, then abandoned and forgotten for the next 4000 years. While all other “cradles of civilization” suffered degrees of destruction due to war, looting, and materials expropriated for later use, Caral, unique of all early civilizations, remained buried, untouched and unremembered. As a result, Caral now gives us an undisturbed composite view into the applied thinking of modern man living before recorded time.

Caral has already challenged several key theories concerning the development of man. First, Caral is a pre-ceramic site. Previous to the discovery of this city, ceramic was considered essential to the development of a civilization. And Caral possesses no metal tools or ornaments. However, a large number of non-ceramic and non-metal artifacts have been discovered.

Caral confronts another fundamental hypothesis concerning how and why civilizations develop. It was previously believed that people began to gather together simply for common protection. But Caral, for 1000 years, unguarded by any fortifications, reveals no evidence of warfare. Nor have weapons have been uncovered. For 1,000 years, Caral was a peaceful society.

Today, the main urban area of Caral contains six major pyramids, large plazas, altars, residential units, and food storage facilities — all of the structures necessary for an urban center. The city’s structure follows an urban design logic seemingly influenced by its setting in the Supe Valley. The studied positioning of the major structures defines a mathematical and celestial understanding. The peaceful city appears to have been configured as a huge calendar.

Approximately 20 other sites have been identified as part of the Caral Civilization are under active investigation. All of these sites contain monumental constructions.

About Caral

With its discovery, Caral's influence throughout South America is beginning to be understood. Construction styles and techniques developed at Caral are found in the structures of the Inca from 500 years ago; Quechua, the language of the Incas that is still widely spoken in the Andes, is being suggested as to have begun as a Proto-Quechua at Caral; even the famous Nasca lines appear to have antecedents in Caral.

It is inevitable that the recent discovery of this last "cradle of civilization" challenges a number of our previous understandings of the development of modern man. Artful, descriptive, and documentary photographs reveal, from the ground and from the air, the ongoing archaeological finds at Caral. They help recast long held beliefs about man's social and scientific evolution. The photographs share the best contemporary insight into a lost civilization, revealing the site's and the civilization's unique and previously unexplored mysteries.

More information in English about Caral can be found at www.caralinperu.com

About the Caral exhibition

Specifications

A comprehensive photographic exhibition of Caral is prepared and framed . Shipping crates are ready to transport the work. Wall art, including labels and descriptive text, is complete.

As currently configured, the basic exhibition consists of 20 36x46 inch photographs and 20 20x24 inch photographs. It is prepared for an exhibition space with 270 linear feet of display area.

This exhibition can be expanded to several times its current size.

Previous Exhibitions and Presentations

George Eastman House Museum of Photography and Film. October, 2011

Embassy of Peru. Washington, D.C. October and November, 2010.

Archaeological Institute of America.. September 2009. New York City.

Museo Oro del Peru. July 2009. Lima, Peru

UNESCO World Heritage Site Presentation. June 2009. Seville, Spain.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. October, 2008. Lima, Peru.

Publications

“Caral, The First Civilization in the Americas”, Shady and Kleihege. Universidad de San Martin de Porres Press and The University of Chicago Press, 2009.

More information in English about Caral can be found at <http://www.caralinperu.com>



BANCO CENTRAL DE RESERVA DEL PERÚ

90 AÑOS | 1922-2012



In 2012, the Central Reserve Bank of Peru released the new 200 Soles banknote. Santa Rosa de Lima, the patron saint of Lima and of Peru, graces the front of the bill. The back side of the bill features an image of the Sacred City of Caral, taken by photographer Chris Kleihege.





International Museum of Photography and Film

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Home » Events » Photographer Christopher Kleihege: Photographing Caral, the oldest civilization in the Western Hemisphere

Photographer Christopher Kleihege: Photographing Caral, the oldest civilization in the Western Hemisphere

On Thursday October 6, 2011 at 6:00 pm in Dryden Theatre

Since 2006, Christopher Kleihege has been photographing Caral, the "oldest centre of civilization" in the Western Hemisphere. The massive pyramids, plazas, and other constructions sit nestled in the foothills of the Peruvian Andes, and their discovery is beginning to challenge our understandings of early modern man.



ABOUT WISH YOU WERE HERE

In its 11th year, the Wish You Were Here travel photography lecture series features renowned photographers sharing images and stories that invite you to explore new destinations or revisit favorite ones.

Lectures are held in the Dryden Theatre at George Eastman House. Admission is free for members, \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, \$5 for students. Artists will sign their books following the lectures. Books are available in the Eastman House Store.

Wish You Were Here is generously supported by Museum member Thomas N. Tischer.

Location : 900 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 · More Information · RTS Routes 17, 18/19, 21, and 22

Hours : Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat : 10am - 5pm · Thu 10am - 8pm · Sun : 1pm - 5pm · More Information

Admission : Adults \$12, Seniors (65+) \$10, Students (with ID) \$5, Children 12 and Under Free · Members enjoy free admission

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE *of* AMERICA

Events

Special Event in New York on September 24

Which city in the Western Hemisphere is contemporaneous with the pyramids of Egypt and the ziggurats of Mesopotamia? The site of Caral, in northern Peru, dates to 4,700 years old and is revolutionizing what we know about the origins of civilization in South America. This year, UNESCO recognized the significance of Caral by adding it to its list of World Heritage sites. On September 24, you will have a rare opportunity to explore Caral and the ancient Peruvian site of Cardal, two of the earliest civilizations in the Americas, which gave rise to monumental architecture, magnificent murals, and remarkable carved figures.

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and PromPeru invite you to a special lecture:

From Caral to Cardal: Adventures in Early Peruvian Civilization

by Richard Burger, world-renowned expert on Peruvian archaeology, Professor of Anthropology, Yale University, and Director of Excavations at Cardal.

Thursday, 24 September 2009
6:30 – 9:30 PM | *The Penn Club*
30 West 44th Street at Fifth Avenue
New York, NY

Lecture to be followed by a special presentation of photographs from Christopher Kleihege, co-author of *Caral: The First Civilization in the Americas*, and by a reception featuring Peruvian specialties.



Caral: The New World's Earliest Civilization
(Photo by Chris Kleihege)

The Archaeological Institute of America promotes public interest in the cultures and civilizations of the past, supports archaeological research, fosters the sound professional practice of archaeology, advocates the preservation of the world's archaeological heritage, and represents the discipline in the wider world.



The Embassy of Peru is pleased to invite you
to the
Photography Exhibit and Opening Lecture

CARAL

THE FIRST CIVILIZATION IN THE AMERICAS Photographs by Chris Kleihege



Opening lecture with Dr. Abelardo E. Sandoval

Tuesday, October 5th, 2010

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Art Gallery of the Embassy of Peru

* Christopher Kleihege is a Chicago photographer who has been working at the massive excavation at Caral since 2006. In 2009, UNESCO named Caral a World Heritage site calling it "the oldest centre of civilization" and the wellspring of South American societies. He coauthored with Dr. Ruth Shady (Peru) the book *Caral: The first civilization in the Americas* (Universidad de San Martín de Porres and the University of Chicago Press).



Kleithege's photographs reveal the monumental pyramids, relate the pyramids to each other, and place this unique UNESCO site in the context of the geography and topology of the exotic landscape.

* Abelardo Sandoval is a Research Scientist at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution, Latin American Archaeology Program. Sandoval did his doctoral studies in Anthropology at the State University of New York at Binghamton, on a Fulbright Hays Fellowship for Scholars. Trained as a professional archaeologist at San Marcos University in Lima, Peru, he has been awarded other fellowships at the American Museum of Natural History of New York, Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D.C., among others. He taught courses on Andean Archaeology in Peru and the US. He also worked for the National Institute of Culture of Peru.

**This exhibit will run until October 29, 2010.
Free entrance.**





Caral

LA CIVILIZACIÓN MÁS ANTIGUA DE LAS AMÉRICAS
SÍMBOLO DE IDENTIDAD E INTEGRACIÓN NACIONAL



EDIFICIO CEREMONIAL MAJOR DE LA CIUDAD SORORIAL DE CARAL



LA RELACIÓN DE GÉNERO FUE MÁS IGUALITARIA EN NUESTRA SOCIEDAD PREHISPÁNICA QUE EN LA ACTUALIDAD

DEL 29 DE JUNIO AL 13 DE JULIO DE 2009
SALA DE EXPOSICIONES TEMPORALES DEL MUSEO ORO DEL PERÚ
CENTRO COMERCIAL LARCOMAR
INGRESO LIBRE

EVENTO ORGANIZADO POR:  

EVENTO AUSPICIADO POR:    Christopher Kleihege

www.caralperu.gob.pe

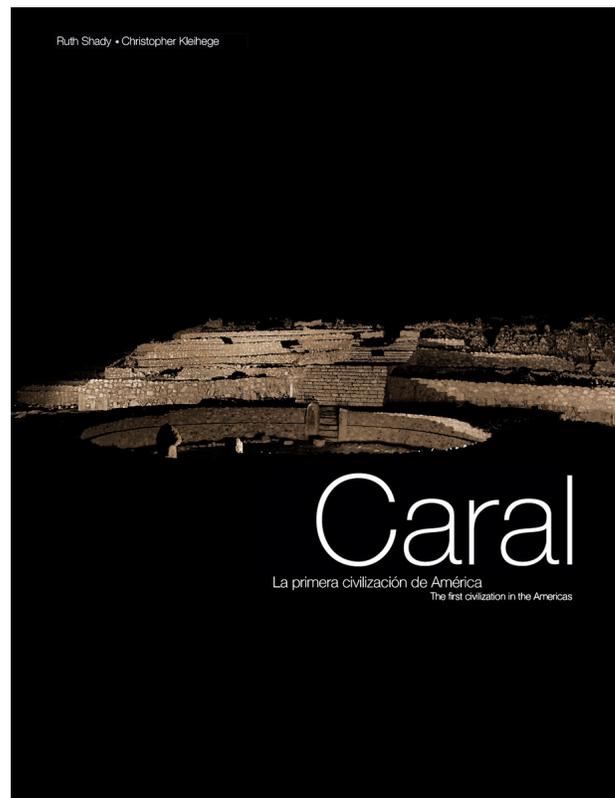


Book Overview:

Caral: The first civilization in the Americas

Dr. Ruth Shady and Christopher Kleihege, Hardcover, 168 pages. The Universidad de San Martín de Porres Press and the University of Chicago Press, 2010

This first photographic survey of Caral documents the earliest civilization in either North, Central or South America. Kleihege's photographs reveal the monumental pyramids, relate the pyramids to each other, and place this unique UNESCO site in the context of the geography and topology of the exotic landscape. The Shady text offers contextual understanding of the importance of its design and its social meaning for the Americas. Together, the works of Shady and Kleihege are the basis of the revelatory understanding of this vast ancient site at the foot of the Peruvian Andes.



From *The University of Chicago Press*:

This book of breathtaking photographs by Christopher Kleihege and illuminating text in English and Spanish by Ruth Shady captures the mystery and beauty of one of the world's oldest cities. Nearly 200 color photographs document Caral's many impressive pyramids, plazas, and other constructions. These photographs portray the intricate layout of this city in the context of the stunning landscape of the Andes. Caral presents a fascinating and dramatic window into the ancient world and will prove essential to anyone curious to the earliest origins of civilization in the Americas.

From *Caretas Ilustracion Peruana*:

This book is valuable for any student of contemporary art due to the magnificent photographs by Christopher Kleihege. Kleihege takes a perspective radically different from the usual archaeological images. This gives the book a character that not only refers to the past, but as an artist of our time he helps us understand how our past provides the most vital keys to the development of land art in the 20th century.

From *Antiquities Magazine (UK)*:

...Caral by photographer CHRISTOPHER KLEIHEGE and archaeologist RUTH SHADY, is visually stunning... the photographs, taken by a view camera at all times of the day and night and through most seasons, are beautiful, sharp, haunting, perfect. Looking at this book comes close to visiting the site – the photographs are so crisp that every stone can be made out even at a distance – and coming away stunned... It remains that the book is a beautiful objet d'art. It will give aesthetic pleasure...

Book Review of *Caral, The First Civilization in the Americas*

ILUSTRACION PERUANA
Caretas

artes & ensartes

By **LUIS E. LAMA**



Caral



The city of Caral inspires a resplendent and instructive publication.

This book is indispensable for anyone interested in either archaeology or the contemporary aspects of Land Art. The book, which was published under the auspices of The University of San Martín de Porres and Logicorp S.A., is essential reading. The erudite and instructive text written by Dr. Ruth Shady makes a fascinating reading.

This book is valuable for any student of contemporary art due to the magnificent photographs by Christopher Kleihege. Kleihege takes a perspective radically different from the usual archaeological images. This gives the book a character that not only refers to the past, but as an artist of our time he helps us understand how our past provides the most vital keys to the development of land art in the 20th century. Think back to the work of Richard Long, whose famous hike in the 1970's added one more line to Nazca. That discovery has not been properly disseminated amongst us, yet is referenced in contemporary art books.

In this century, Andy Goldsworthy has been a leader in making art in and with nature. Books like *Caral* have allowed us to both analyze our roots as well as analyze those artists who have made Perú the main source of their work.

Caral is the only publication that I have seen about this presumed first civilization of the Americas that so greatly influenced the civilizations that followed. This is a history book, yet so profoundly contemporary. In it, it is possible to find the motivations that in the 1990's brought institutions like MOMA in New York to make an exposition about modern and primitive art. The institutions that made this edition possible provided a valuable cultural contribution.

November 6, 2008

Translated from the original Spanish.

Biographies:

Dr. Ruth Shady

Credited with the discovery of Caral, the first known civilization in the Americas, Dr. Ruth Shady, a Peruvian anthropologist and archaeologist, has directed the Special Archeological Project Caral-Supe since the beginning of the investigations in 1994.



Shady studied anthropology and archaeology at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. From 1975 to 1984, she served as head of investigations for the National Museum of Archaeology and became Director in 1984.

From 1992-1993, Ruth Shady was Director of the School of Archaeology at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. She was elected Dean of the Professional College of Peruvian Archaeologists for the 2006-2007 year. Shady also has served as graduate candidate advisor in Andean Archaeology at the Universidad Nacional de San Marcos. In the span of her career, she has effected investigations in Végueta, Maranga (Lima), Pacopampa, Chota (Cajamarca), and Bagua (the Amazon).

Ruth Shady is currently President of the Consejo Internacional de Monumentos y Sitios – ICOMOS Perú.

Christopher Kleihege



Throughout his career, Christopher Kleihege has created works of descriptive, factual art at known sites of architectural history or natural wonder. Caral, however is that rare site that links what is unknown, historical and exotic to the science of archaeology. Kleihege has been working in Caral since 2006, documenting the excavation and interpreting the site.

In 2009, Kleihege's photographs were published as *Caral: The First Civilization in the Americas*. The Caral photographs were presented at the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Museo de Oro Perú. In New York City, he presented to the Archaeological Institute of America.

Kleihege earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Marquette University. Later, after teaching and then trading as a Specialist on the Chicago Stock Exchange, he matriculated through a self-defined curriculum in Columbia College's Photography Department. His photographs are in both national and international public and private art collections.

Chris Kleihege resides in Chicago with Grace Drease.



PROYECTO ESPECIAL ARQUEOLÓGICO CARAL-SUPE

Unidad Ejecutora 003: Zona Arqueológica Caral
Instituto Nacional de Cultura

Lima, 30 de abril del 2009.

A QUIEN CORRESPONDA:

De mi consideración:

Me dirijo a usted para presentar al señor CHRISTOPHER P. KLEIHEGE, identificado con pasaporte USA n° 214753821, quien tiene por encargo representar al Proyecto Especial Arqueológico Caral-Supe / INC. ante distintas instituciones con la finalidad de establecer relaciones de cooperación e intercambio de experiencias.

El Proyecto Especial Arqueológico Caral-Supe (PEACS) es una institución del Estado peruano que realiza la investigación arqueológica y puesta en valor del patrimonio cultural con una visión integral, sostenible; con un enfoque multidisciplinario, con participación multisectorial y de la sociedad civil.

En este marco ha venido realizando la investigación científica de los sitios arqueológicos del valle de Supe, la conservación física de los monumentos, la puesta en valor de éstos con fines turísticos; y en paralelo ha efectuado gestiones para la ejecución del Plan Maestro con la finalidad de fomentar el desarrollo socioeconómico de las poblaciones de Supe y de las zonas de influencia. Viene trabajando, así, para convertir al rico patrimonio cultural de Caral-Supe, la civilización más antigua de América, en el eje que promueva mejores condiciones de vida para la sociedad actual.

Agradeciendo anticipadamente la atención que le brinde al señor CHRISTOPHER P. KLEIHEGE, aprovecho la oportunidad para expresarle los sentimientos de mi especial consideración.

Atentamente,

Edna Quispe Loayza

Jefa (e)

Proyecto Especial Arqueológico Caral-Supe / INC