The Perplexing Panel
Considerations Of Style and Cultural Affiliation

David Sucec / BCS PROJECT
www.bcsproject.org

URARA 2015
Northern Study Area / Upper Colorado Plateau

The Sheep Canyon Painted Panel
Sheep Canyon Painted Panel

"This lovely pictograph...is located in the heart of Fremont style rock art but it doesn't fit that style very well. It is similar to Barrier Canyon Style and looks "sort of" Fremont style. It doesn't fit either style completely."

Post / Explorers Of Native American Rock Art
Sheep Canyon Painted Panel

Art Historian comment:

"I always wanted to see that site. From photos it seems to be a copy of a Barrier Canyon style composition, but not quite Fremont."
Nine Mile Canyon

Barrier Canyon Style
Study Area
Nine Mile Canyon drains into the Green River
THE *PERPLEXING* PANEL
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> Sheep Canyon Painted Panel
THE **PERPLEXING PANEL**

- Sheep Canyon Painted Panel
- Sheep Canyon Pecked Panel
THE *PERPLEXING PANEL*

> Sheep Canyon Painted Panel
> Sheep Canyon Pecked Panel
> Discussion
THE *PERPLEXING* PANEL

> Sheep Canyon Painted Panel
> Sheep Canyon Pecked Panel

> Discussion
  ~ The Painted Panel
THE PERPLEXING PANEL

> Sheep Canyon Painted Panel
> Sheep Canyon Pecked Panel

> Discussion
  ~ The Painted Panel
  ~ The Perplexing Figure
THE *PERPLEXING* PANEL

> Sheep Canyon Painted Panel
> Sheep Canyon Pecked Panel

> Discussion
  ~ The Painted Panel
  ~ The Perplexing Figure
  ~ Style...Considerations
Probable Sequence of Image Making
First image-making episode / first two painted figures
Dry paint technique
First image-making episode / first two painted figures
Second image-making episode / third painted figure
Over-painting
Third image-making episode / fourth painted figure
Over-painting technique (blending not mixing)
Fourth image-making episode / fifth figure, pecked
Fifth figure, pecked enhanced
Sequence of Image Making
Superimposition
Chronology
Reference: Carrot Man Panel

Superimposition
The Perplexing Figure

Superimposition

Base of pecked figure

Over-pecked frame on painted arm
Unscaled Figures...Regional/Temporal Variation
Sequence of Image Making
Superimposition
The Perplexing Figure
The Perplexing Figure

Bilateral symmetry
Wet on Wet Technique
Bilateral symmetry
Uintah Basin
Blending
Fremont horn motif
Head motif...short, no neck form
Another possibility
9 Mile Canyon. Shamans' Panel
9 Mile Canyon. Shamans' Panel

Figure in the Fremont style
Body motif (proportional)
Canyonlands Study Area
San Rafael Study Area
Sequence of Image Making
Superimposition
The Perplexing Figure
Pecked images
The Sheep Canyon Pecked Panel
Unscaled Figures...Regional Variation
Arc over head, BCS motif
STYLE: Appearance or Culture?
"No panels of Schaaafsma’s Barrier Canyon Style have been found to this date in Nine Mile Canyon."

URARA Researcher
“It may look like Barrier Canyon Style but It Isn’t.”
Is style determined by the way the figures appear?
Is style determined by the way the figures appear? Or from what culture group or time period the image-maker is thought to have lived?
Utah Historic Style...or...(Neo) Classic Style?
Classical facade with columns... (Neo) Classic style.
Classical dome...New Classic style.
Style is not exclusive to any one time period or culture...although it seems to be almost always the case.
Heads and Up –
Individualistic Head Treatment
Wet on wet painting technique
Head treatment
The Banded Figure
Dry paint technique
Canyon Pintado, W. Colorado
Great Gallery, Canyonlands National Park
The concepts (involved in visual analysis) stress the appearance of objects rather than their purposes, their forms rather than their meanings...

J. J. Brody, *Anasazi and Pueblo Painting*

The development of pictorial form relies on basic properties of the nervous system, whose functioning is not greatly modified by cultural and individual differences.

Rudolph Arnheim 1960:167
Style is perceived as a function of the human imagination

Art is conceived of as an intellectually expressive activity wherein systematic, rational decisions are made by individual artists, each guided by his or her own cultural and social history.

J. J. Brody
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image *(choice)*
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image *(choice)*

2. Image Maker *(chooses)*
Cultural Affiliations:
"The arts are perhaps peculiar among man's cultural creations simply because the behavior involved in their creation produces a product which, as an object of study, can be treated quite divorced from cultural context."

Alan P Merriam, *The Arts and Anthropology*
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BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image *(choice)*
   Conscious Origin
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image *(choice)*
   - Conscious Origin
   - Unconscious Origin
"All depth psychology of whatever school or shade insists on the importance of unconscious processes in creativity, and there is no question that most of the decisive impulses of the artist—and, indeed, of the scientist—issue, as I mentioned earlier, from below the threshold of awareness."

Rudolph Arnheim, *Guernica*
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image (*choice*)
   - Conscious Origin
   - Unconscious Origin

2. Image Maker (*chooses*)
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image *(choice)*
   - Conscious Origin
   - Unconscious Origin

2. Image Maker *(chooses)*
   - Unconscious Menu
"...the similarity between the language of the dream and that of the work of art.

During sleep the human mind seems to descend to the more elementary level at which life situations are described not by abstract concepts but by significant images. We cannot but admire the creative imagination awakened by sleep in all of us. It is this dormant power of picture language on which the artist also draws for his inventions."

Rudolph Arnheim, Art And Visual Perception
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1. Image *(choice)*
   - Conscious Origin
   - Unconscious Origin

2. Image Maker *(chooses)*
   - Unconscious Menu
   - Conscious Menu (Intention)
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image *(choice)*
   - Conscious Origin
   - Unconscious Origin

2. Image Maker *(chooses)*
   - Unconscious Menu
   - Conscious Menu (Intention)
   - Conventional Menu (Culture)
BCS PROJECT
Rock Art Scholarship / Study of The Visual

1. Image *(choice)*
   - Conscious Origin
   - Unconscious Origin

2. Image Maker *(chooses)*
   - Unconscious Menu
   - Conscious Menu (Intention)
     - Conventional Menu (Culture)
     - Outside Menu (What's on the Walls)
Cultural Affiliations:

"Do we ever understand what we think? We understand only such thinking as is a mere equation and from which nothing comes out but what we have put in. That is the manner of working of the intellect."

C. G. Jung 1936:129
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C. G. Jung 1936:129