

Barrier Canyon Meets the Jurassic

A Brief Overview of Dinosaurs & Rock Art



Dinosaurs in Rock Art



Dinosaur National Monument

“flesh & blood” depictions

- faith-based
- aka Young Earth Creationism
- believe the earth is < 10,000 years old
- humans & dinosaurs coexisted



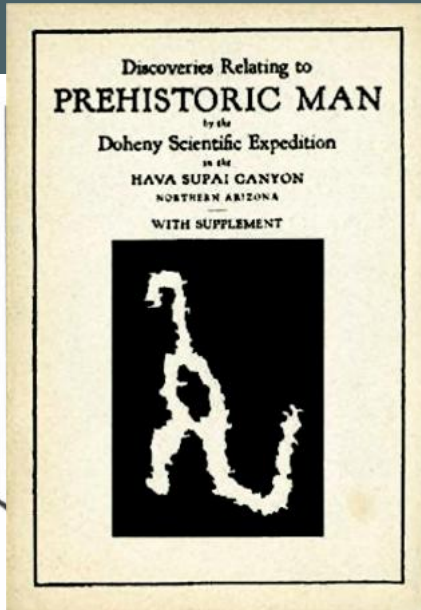
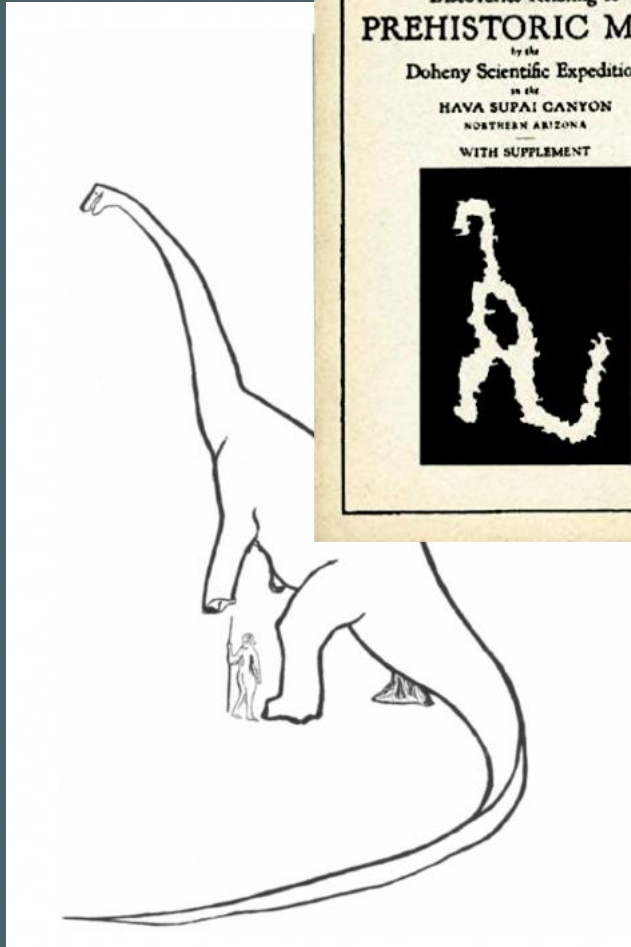
“fossil” depictions

- science-based
- paleontology and geology
- dinosaurs went extinct 65 million years ago

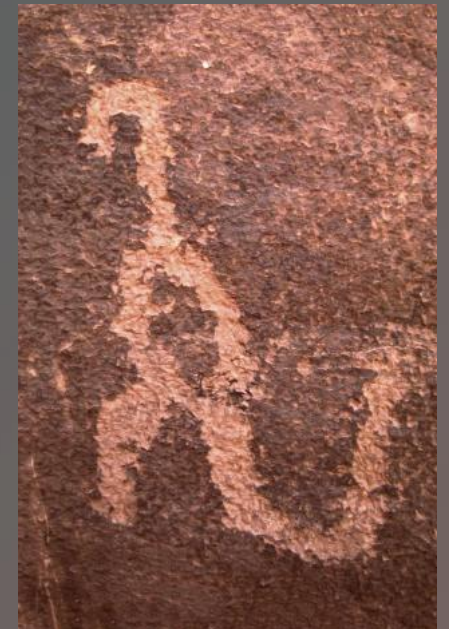


Grand Canyon National Park

1924 Doheny Scientific Expedition



- Earliest published association of dinosaurs & rock art
- E. L. Doheny, wealthy oilman from Los Angeles sponsored the expedition
- Samuel Hubbard, honorary curator of archaeology at the Oakland Museum, California
- Debunked by Charles Gilmore, expedition paleontologist



Natural Bridges National Monument, Utah

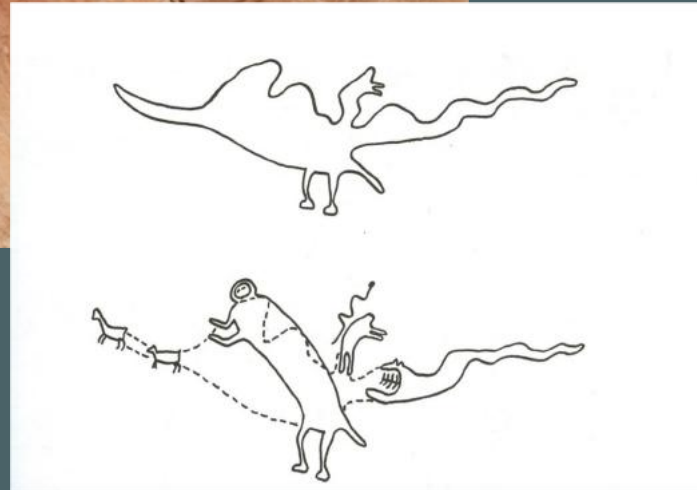
Kachina Bridge

- Discovered by visitors in the 1960s & hailed as a long-necked sauropod
- Debunked by Sally Cole & Phil Senter in 2011
- Body & Tail - two separate segments
- Legs - stained rock - not pecked



San Rafael Reef, Utah

Black Dragon Canyon



- In 1947 John Simonson chalked the panel as a single figure & wrote a paper in Utah Magazine describing a large “winged” monster
- Debunked by Jesse Warner of URARA in 1993
- Drawing at left shows actual components of the pictograph

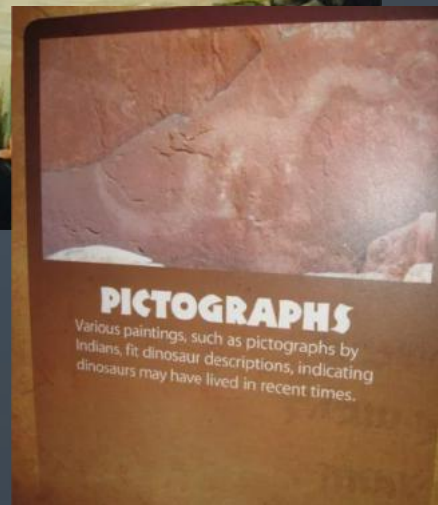


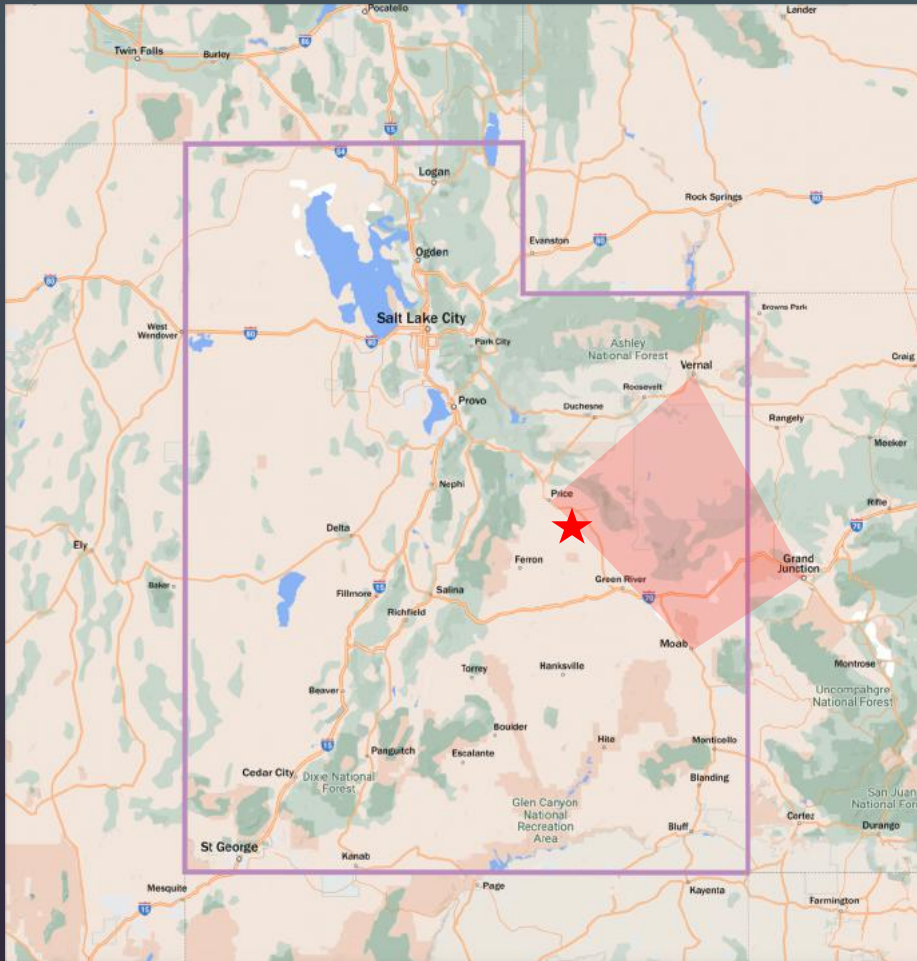
Continuing to this day...

- All three of these rock art sites are cited by “young earthers” as proof of human coexistence with dinosaurs.

For additional information...

- Creation Museum, Petersburg, Kentucky
- Ark Encounter, Williamstown, Kentucky
- YouTube Videos





Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway

- Now consider depictions of fossil dinosaurs
- Red star on left map is the subject location
- Location is critical to this story



Jurassic National Monument

Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry



- The most dense concentration of Jurassic dinosaur bones in the world
- 70% of the bones come from carnivores
- Primarily: *Allosaurus fragilis*



Allosaurus fragilis



- The “thunder lizard” of the late Jurassic
- The “darling” of Utah paleontologists
- The Utah State Fossil
- The most common dinosaur found at Jurassic National Monument



What about T-Rex?

Tyrannosaurus rex

- Cretaceous – 68 million years ago
- 40 feet long – 5-8 tons
- Rare in Utah



Allosaurus fragilis

- Jurassic – 150 million years ago
- 30 feet long – 2 tons
- Common in Utah





The prized Allosaurus Skull - Dinosaur National Monument

Fossils in the Utah Morrison

- Intact and recognizable
- Chance of archaic encounters: 100%



Allosaurus Jawbone
USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum – Price, Utah



In situ bones – Jurassic National Monument

Northern San Rafael Swell

The Subject Panel



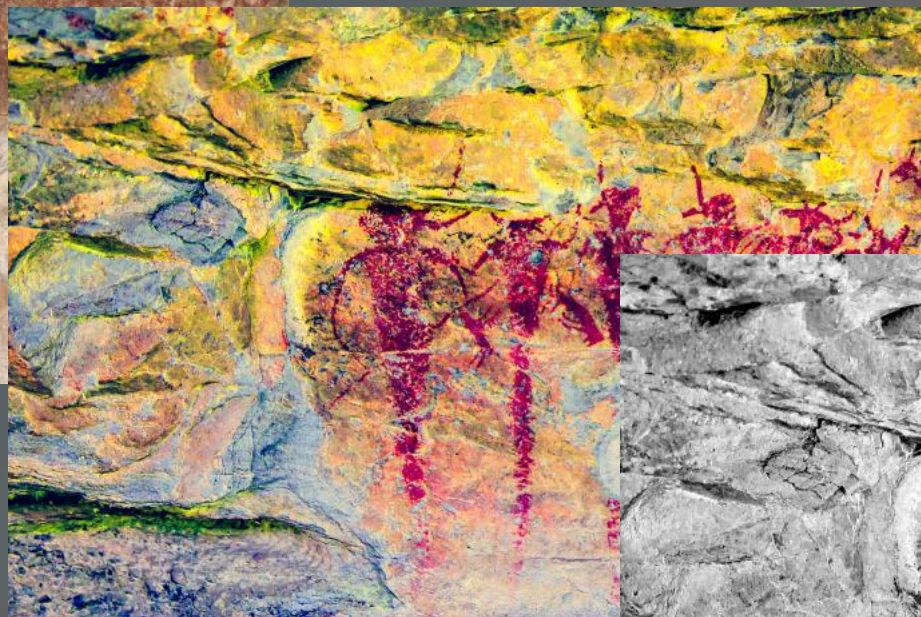
- Within a few miles of Jurassic National Monument
- Barrier Canyon Style red pictograph
- Rendered on sandstone adjacent to fossilized vertebrae
- Awkward to photograph
- Difficult to see detail

Processing the Image

Original



Dstretch



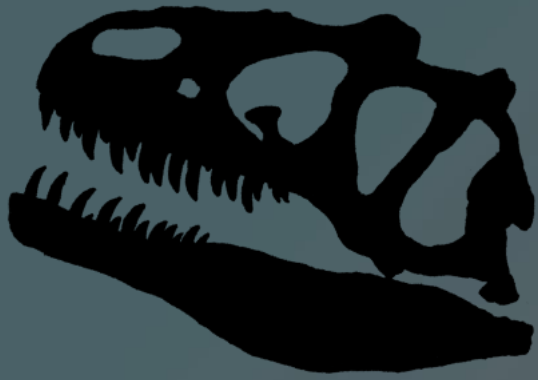
Black & White



Composition 1



Composition 1 - Closeup



Allosaurus Skull



- Look for the teeth

Composition 2



Allosaurus Skull



- Look for the teeth

Focus on Five Head Shapes

Various Parts of the Subject Panel



Allosaurus fragilis



Another Section of the Subject Panel

No Dinosaurs ...More Anthropomorphic Figures

- As Depicted on Panel



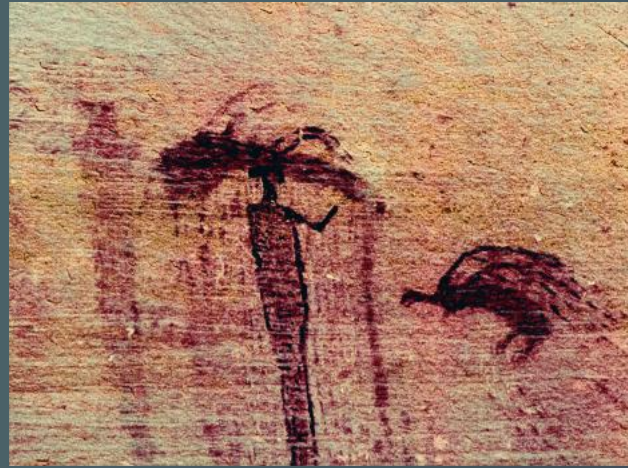
- Rotated 90 degrees

Closeup of Previous View

Insect-Like
Anthropomorphs



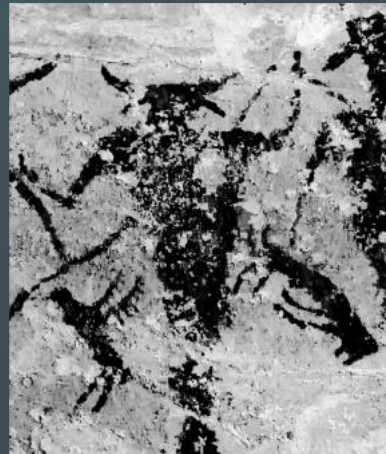
Subject



Virgin Springs Panel



Buckhorn Wash Panel



Subject

Some Lingering Questions

Is the panel relatively new or a hoax?

- Spears & lances only - no atlatls
- Predates the bow & arrow
- Appears to be genuine & very old

What makes it Barrier Canyon Style?

- Red pigment – old patina
- Anthros similar to local BCS panels – note the arm and body shapes
- Spirit helpers – facing both up and down

Are there other “fossil inspired” panels?



San Rafael Reef, Utah

Near Hanksville-Burpee Dinosaur Quarry

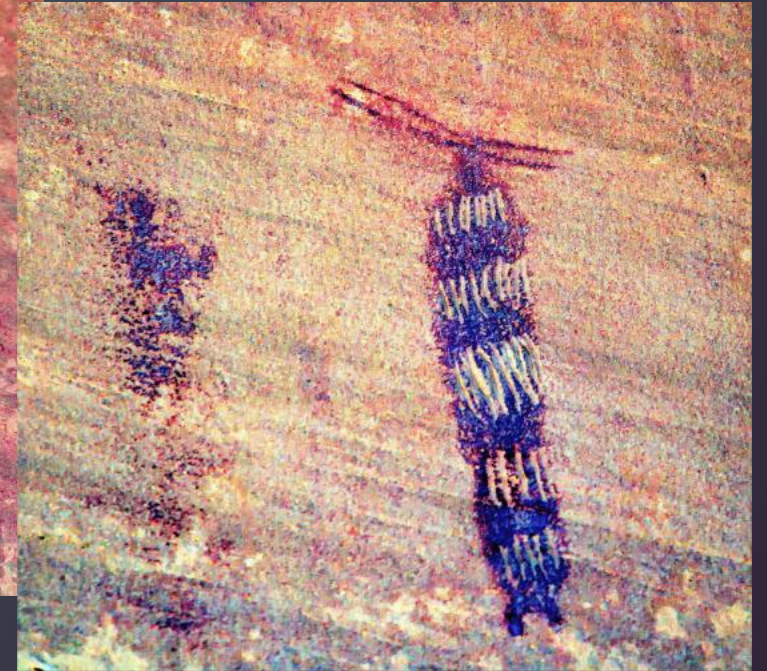
Pterosaur



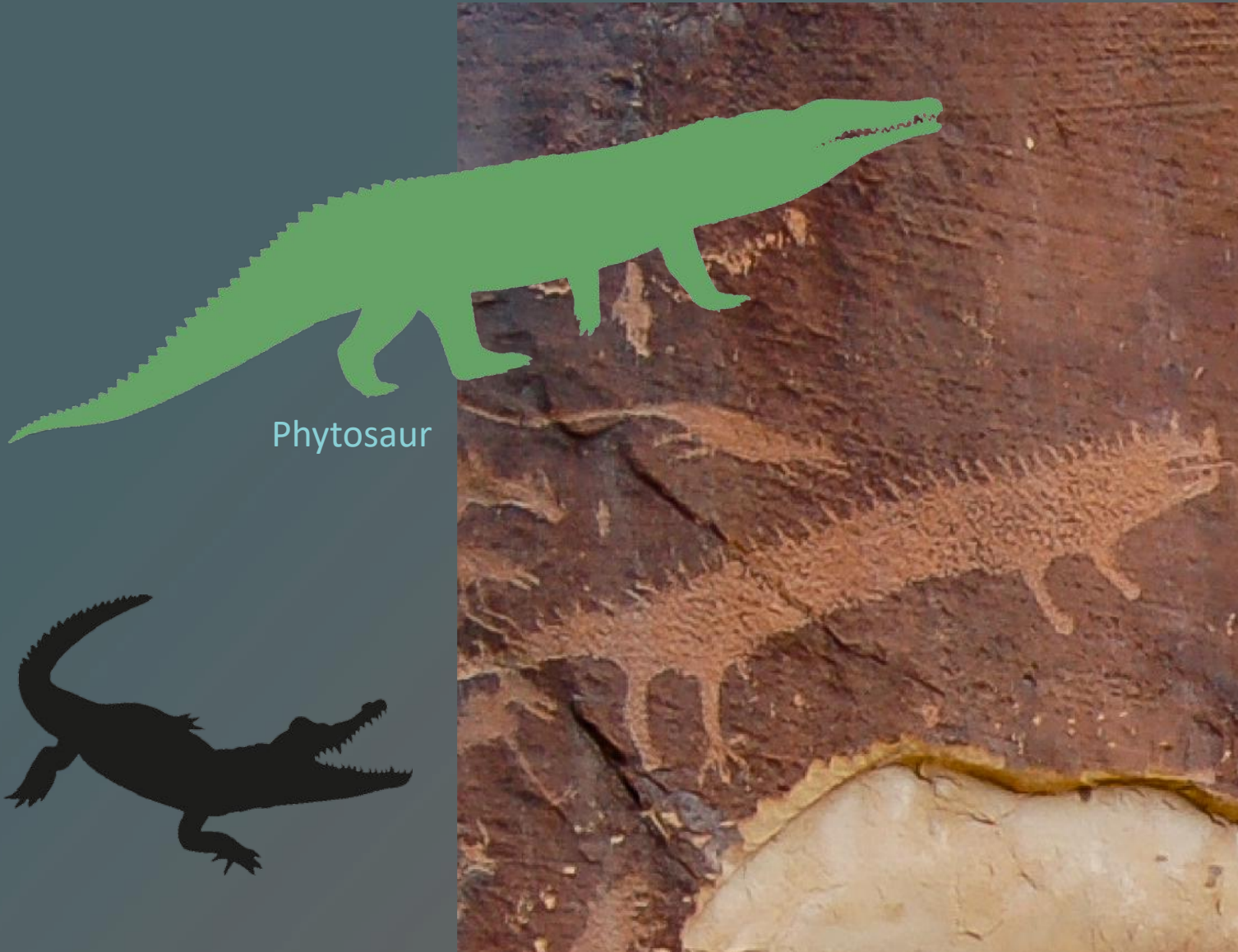
Typical San Rafael
Barrier Canyon Style Figures



Non-typical San Rafael
Barrier Canyon Style Figures



Emery County, Utah Rochester Panel



- Phytosaurs look like crocodiles but are more ancient, with fossils found in the Chinle formation
- Crocodiles are not dinosaurs but their fossils can be found with dinosaurs in the Jurassic



In closing, something to ponder:

- wherever dinosaur fossils are found ...
- it is possible they are depicted in the rock art ...
- in whole, or in part, or as imaginary creatures ...
- But we have to look or we will surely miss them.

