

# Rock Art Eccentrics Part IV

Incorporation of Natural Rock Elements Into Rock Art Images



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# INTRODUCTION

**Eccentric:** something that is unusual, peculiar or odd

**Rock Art Eccentric:** image that is unusual or peculiar due to incorporation of natural rock elements such as:

- holes
- cavities
- cracks
- corners
- edges
- protrusions
- texture
- coloration
- water stains
- rock layers
- other





# INTRODUCTION

- Majority of photos from NM & UT, some from CO, AZ, TX, NV, CA & Baja, Mexico
- Volcanic rock and sandstone are predominant surfaces
- These images grab your attention and allow you to kind of get into the mind of the creators
- Emotional connection with peoples of the past
- Using rock contours can give images a partial 3D effect
- Rated R: some slides contains nudity
- All images subject to copyright restrictions - cannot be reproduced or republished without the authors permission

# Faces, Masks, Kachinas

**'Pueblo kachina masks are the most diagnostic element of the Rio Grande rock art style.** Throughout they vary from simple to complex in detail.... Masks carved under the open sky on prominent landscape locations such as hilltops, knolls and intrusive volcanic features may well have served as petitions to the spirits of rain clouds attracted by their images.....**rock art empowers the landscape and defines places where communication with powerful supernaturals may take place** because they are attracted to their images.'

Polly Schaafsma, *Beyond the Village: Arroyo Hondo, Rock Art, and Religious Transformations in Classic Period Pueblos*, internet publication







NM





NM





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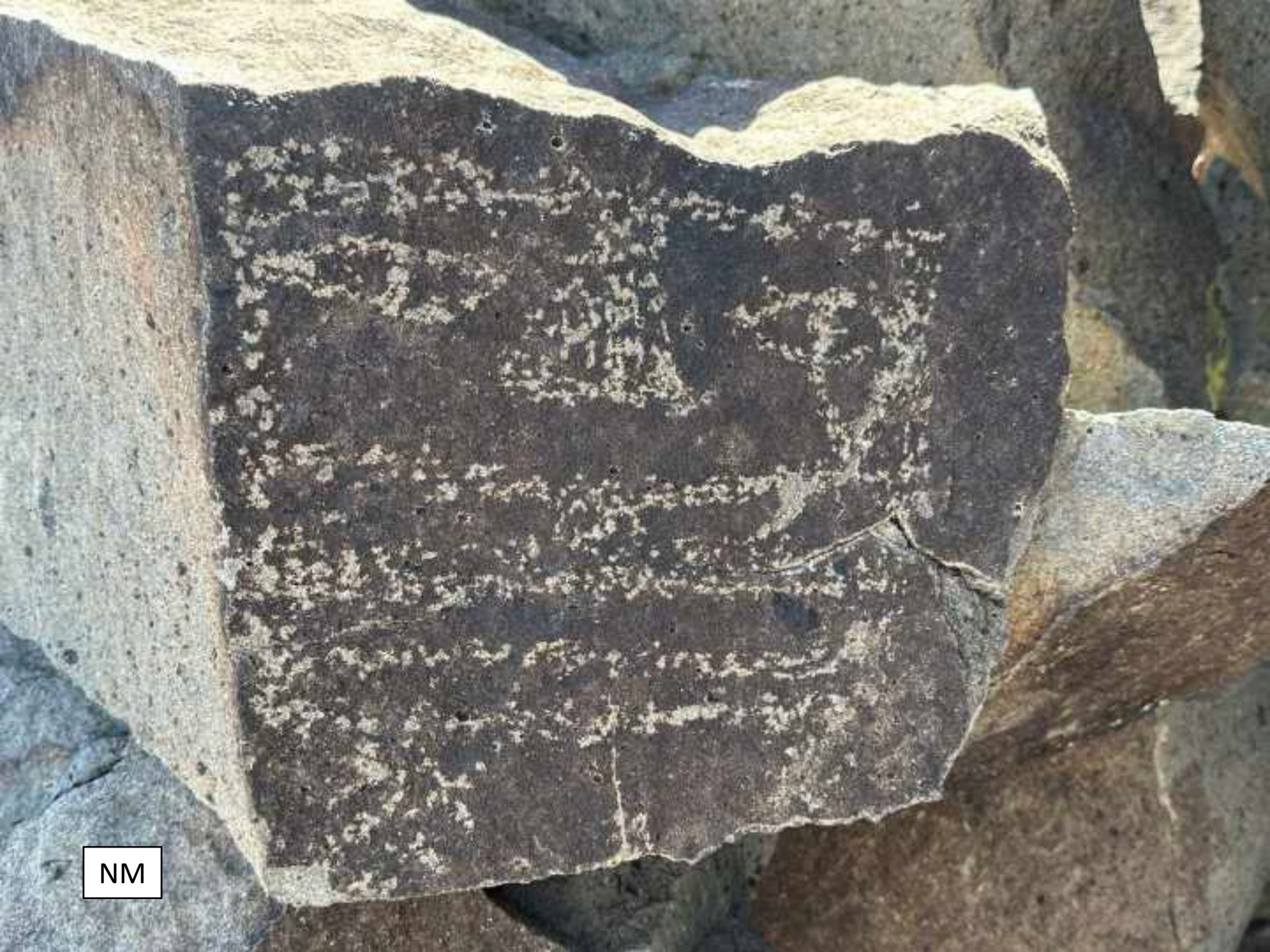
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# Corner Masks

- Common in Rio Grande & Jornado Mogollon rock art styles
- Range from quite simple to very detailed
- Although mentioned in the literature, I have found no documented explanation for the corner masks
- Seen as living entities that are watching the landscape and interacting with the supernaturals
- One eye is always on each side of the corner, giving them a 3D form and a 180° view of the landscape, which often is very expansive.







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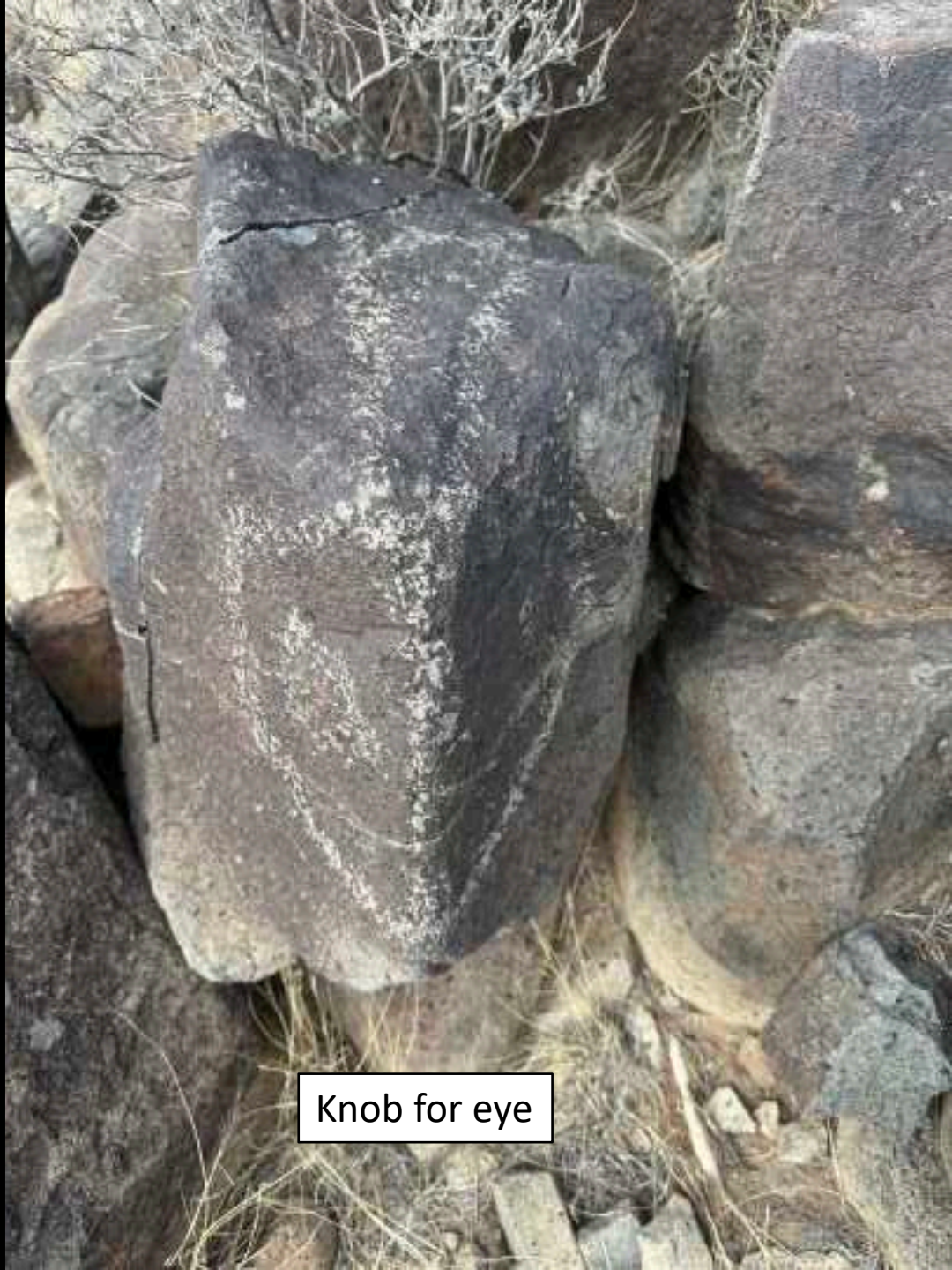


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Knob for eye





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Half corner mask





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## Other Uses of Corners





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TX





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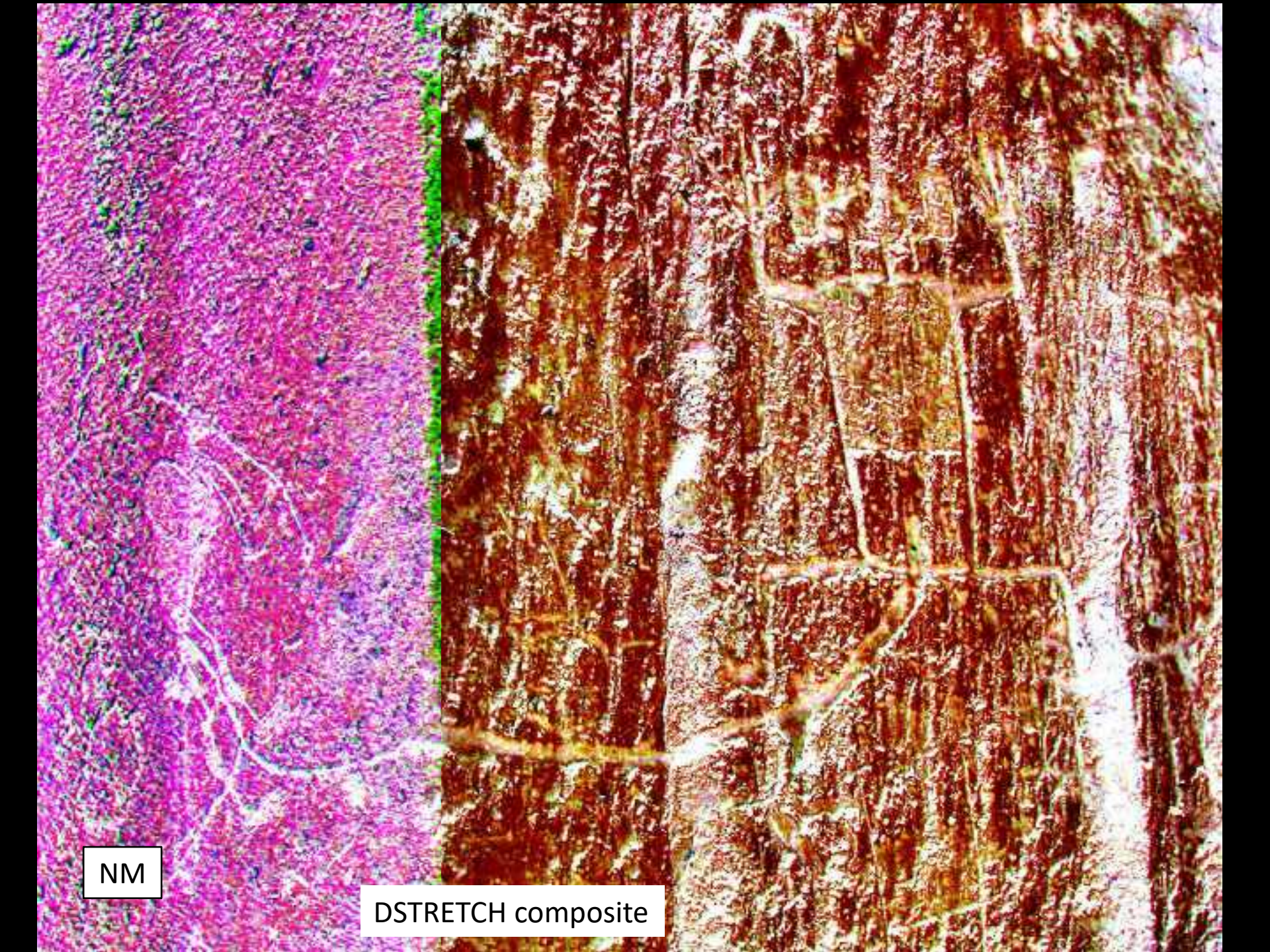






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DSTRETCH composite





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# Full-Bodied Anthropomorphs





NM





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NV

Photo credit: Anne McConnell





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UT





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Animals





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Mountain lion paw over  
white inclusion





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NM





AZ





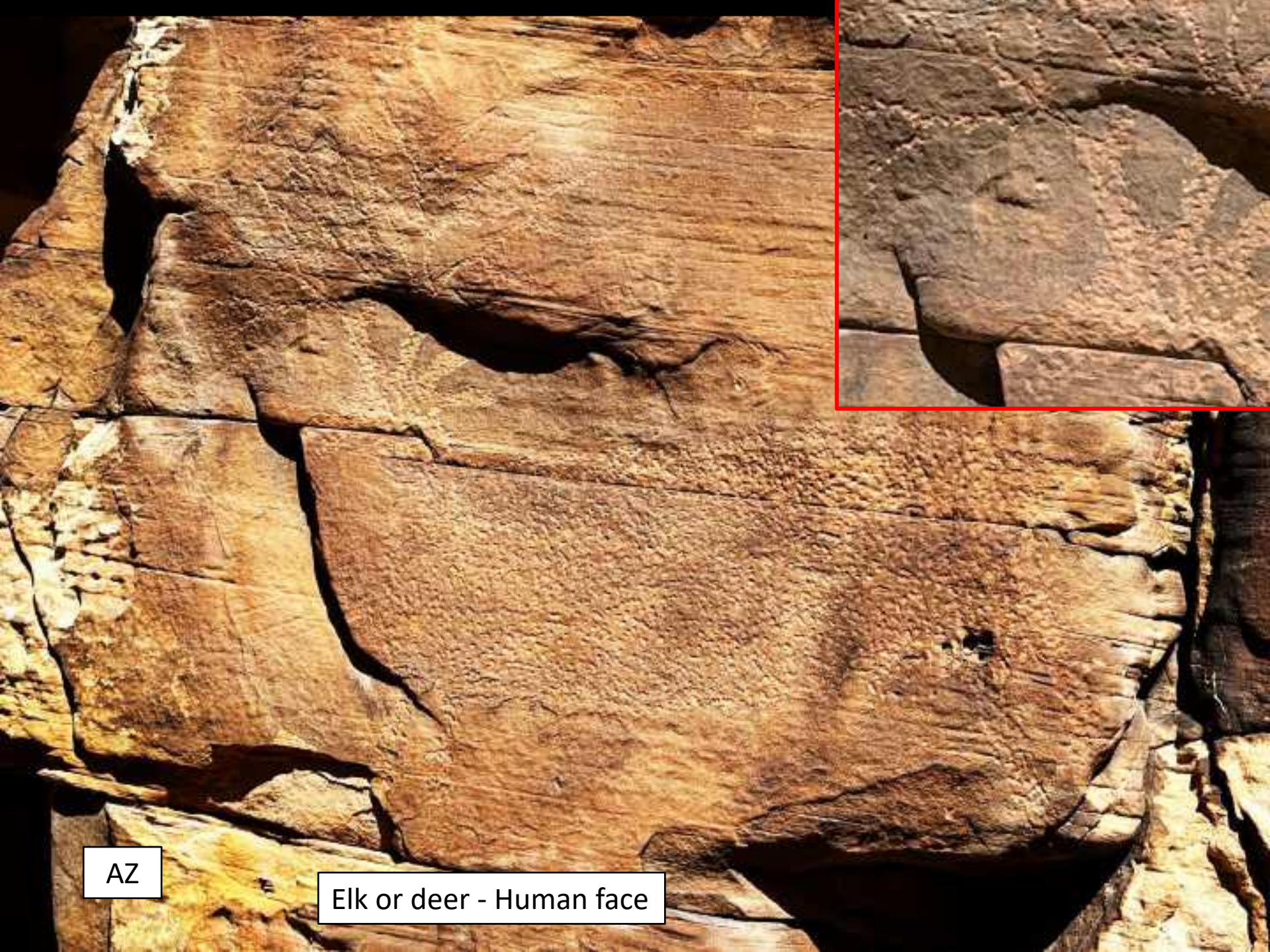
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NM





AZ

Elk or deer - Human face





AZ





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AZ



# Acknowledgements

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# Summary

- Incorporation of natural rock features into rock art images is intentional
- Makes an image more special, perhaps gives it more power
- Many variations
- Archaic to historic
- Found across the entire SW
- A link to the humanity, imagination & creativity of those who created these images
- Not something you see every time you go out but it is there if you are looking for it





I ♥ Rock Art !

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URARA Rocks!