WHITE FIGURES OF THE ESCALANTE

David Sucec, BCS PROJECT
www.bcsproject.org

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Big Alcove, Escalante Study Area
Escalante Study Area
(Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area)
Escalante River drainage, ca. 65 miles of river plus side canyons.
White Figures, Escalante Study Area
Armless Figure, Big Alcove
Mostly BCS figure, Big Alcove
White Soft Edged Figure
White Linear Figures
White Pointed Figures, d-stretch
Vision is not a mechanical recording of elements but the grasping of significant structural patterns.

Rudolph Arnheim / Art and Visual Perception
The Figure

The image-maker chooses the motifs with which to construct the figure.
Digitized coordinate points.

Style making motifs
The Barrier Canyon Style

Spirit Figures

- Elongated figure proportion, width to length, most often tapered, most often without limbs.
- Spirit Figures are bilaterally symmetrical.
- The parallel line motif with long vertical lines rather than the typically horizontal orientation (rake) of other Archaic styles.
- Arcs over head/shoulders.
- Headdresses such as “crowns” and double antennae.
- Round, oversized/vacant/goggle eyes.
- Shoulder Bar.

- Composite figures, or hybrids, made up of body parts of different species.
"...the term historically “related” in the sense of implying ancestry should only apply to the Barrier Canyon and Fremont styles..."

"...it is conceivable that Fremont rock art of the (Escalante) area could date as early as A.D. 100."

Phil Geib, *Glen Canyon Revisited*
Motifs of Change in Significant Figures

– Broader heads
– Ear bobs / Forms on sides of head (local variation?)
– Curved horn motif
– Necklace / chin motif
– Arms/hands
– Flared lower body
– Legs / feet
– Shield motif / Compositional motif
Probable Sequence of White Figures

High Panel, Main Canyon, Escalante Study Area
White Figures in the Barrier Canyon style.
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Mostly Fremont figure w/ Hisatsenom motifs

Round headed mostly Fremont figure
Genealogy: Images of Significant Figures

Judeo/Christian
Zeus, Greek
Zeus, Greek
Nebo, Babylonian (ca. 2,500 B.C.E.)
Images of Significant Figures (over ca. 5,000 yrs).
Another Mixed Style Panel
High Alcove, Escalante Study Area
White Soft Edge Figures
White Figures in the Barrier Canyon style.
Soft Edged white figures superimposed upon dark BCS PLM figures and motifs.
D Stretched
White Pointed Figures
Mixed style figure, Escalante Study Area
Barrier Canyon style figure, Escalante Study Area