



San Diego Rock Art Association Virtual Meeting
Sunday, December 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Kin or Coincidence?



Figures and Figurines Similar in Form or Motif to Barrier Canyon Style Rock Art

A Presentation by David Sucec

During excavations at the Cowboy and Walters caves in Canyonlands National Park, several small split-twig figurines were found that appear to be close in style to the better-known twig figures found in good numbers from the Grand Canyon National Park area, about two hundred miles south of the Utah caves.

The BCS PROJECT made three probes into the split-twig figurines area of the Grand Canyon to see what figure images had been painted, drawn, or pecked in the rock art. Were there any similarities, as in the figurines, to the figure forms in the Barrier Canyon style found in the Canyonlands National Park area?

This presentation will discuss the findings from sites in the Paria River and Esplanade areas of the Grand Canyon as compared to those of the Barrier Canyon style, and will examine similarities in images and motifs from other parts of western North America and northern Mexico, both prehistoric and historic.

David Sucec is a visual artist, independent curator, and scholar and is the Director of the BCS PROJECT. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. The BCS (Barrier Canyon style) PROJECT, a non-profit (501c3), is engaged in generating a photographic inventory of Barrier Canyon style rock art in the Colorado Plateau area. Since 1991, the Project Photographer, Craig Law, has photographed more than 470 sites with Barrier Canyon style images. When completed, the inventory, along with a description and analysis of the style, will reside in the Special Collections Division of the Marriott Library, University of Utah, and on the BCS PROJECT web page.

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