

Lions Mouth

The Lions Mouth site is located west of Cedar City in an alcove with a view looking southwest, Figure 1. The name of the site is derived from the shape of the geologic formation when viewed toward the north where the site is located, Figure 2. The site is also called the “Birthing Cave” by some locals.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The Lions Mouth site consists of a series of pictographs in two separate panels. The colors used are red, yellow, white and black. Pictographs are unusual for this area.

This panel is located in an area inhabited by the Fremont, however some think that the creators of these panels were either Paiutes or Shoshone.

The details of the smaller of the two panels are shown in Figures 3 and 4. The largest glyph is what looks like a rabbit with an adjacent scene with another smaller rabbit. The image in Figure 4 is located close to the large rabbit.



Figure 3

The main panel (Figure 5) is approximately 50 feet long. The central figure (Figure 6) is a solid red painted, “potato” shaped or “pine nut” shaped anthro with out stretched arms connecting with a solid red line on either side of him that runs the entire length of the panel. The other images are either on the red line, above the line or below the line.

One interpretation is that the large red figure is the creator shown creating the earth (the large red line) and all of its creatures. The images below the line are in the “underworld”, the images on the red line are “on the earth” and those above the red line are “spirit beings”.

The glyphs in this part of the panel are painted in red, yellow and white with some black. Many are red on a yellow background. The majority of the glyphs on this panel are anthro's. There are no obvious zoo morphs such as sheep, or no spirals or circles as found on many panels in the area.



Figure 4



Figure 5

Details of other images found on this panel are shown in Figures 7 through 14.

There are two images that have “Fremont appearances”, Figure 10 and 13. The telling feature is the triangular shaped body. The image in Figure 10 has a head consisting of concentric circles, while the image in Figure 13 has no head.

The only zoo morphs are the images of what look like “cats” in Figure 11. There appears to be two bear paws in Figure 10.

There are a number of “stick figure” people like those in Figure 9 and 10.

The most striking figure in one of an eagle, shown in Figure 14. He is very detailed and is done in red and yellow paint. He is a small figure located on the ceiling of the alcove.



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

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