

## Rosy Canyon

Rosy Canyon is located east of Hilldale / Colorado City on the Arizona strip. The canyon runs north / south and is a wide canyon that is home to many ranches. The canyon has a number of archaeological / rock art sites. We visited the site know as the “**Basket Site**”, because of the large number of burden basket petroglyphs at the site. The site at the top of a talus slope and has a grand overview of the valley below (Figure 1), as well as a view of the western horizon.



Figure 1 – View of the Rosy Canyon Valley from the Basket Site

The site is complex, having a rather large ruin (at least 3 rooms) with petroglyph panels on either side of the ruin.

**The ruin** (Figure 2) consists of a large room and perhaps two or more smaller rooms. The back wall of the ruin is the cliff face, while the ceiling is a rock outcropping. The large room is at least 15 ft x 15 ft and is tall enough to comfortably stand.

**On the ceiling of the large room** are a series of pictographs of anthros in the form of stick figures painted in red (Figure 3). Next are two anthros, one in red and one in a dark red / brown (Figure 4). The later has a duck figure on his head. This is kilakilo (sp?) the duck, who according to mythology guided an explorer home after he reached the snow fields in the north and became blinded by the snow. The body of the duck figure is partially damaged by exfoliation of the rock face. The set of symbols on Figure 5 could be a turkey track (clan symbol) and a red blob that looks like a potato – what is it?

On the ceiling was one petroglyph of a burden basket with two staffs (Figure 6). The burden basket is full. The staffs are at such an angle as to perhaps indicate the area that was used for farming.

The last figure on the ceiling was a very faint pictograph done in white and outlined in a pail red or salmon color (Figure 7). This symbol was thought by the group to have something to do with the western horizon.



Figure 2 – The ruin



Figure 3 – Anthro's the ceiling of the ruin



Figure 4 – Anthros – Kilakilo figure on right



Figure 5 – Turkey track (?) and what???



Figure 6 – Burden Basket



Figure 7 – White figure outlined in red / salmon color

The pictograph of anthro's was **on the back wall of the ruin**. They are done in white with red highlights (Figure 9). The anthro in Figure 10 is done in white with a dark, perhaps red head.



Figure 9 – Anthros on back wall of ruin



Figure 10 – Anthro on back wall of ruin

There was a **large panel to the left of the ruin** (Figure 11). An elk, with a very large rack, representing the tree of life dominates the lower left side of the panel (Figure 12).



Figure 11 – Panel to the left of the Ruin



Figure 12 – Elk – lower left

The top center of the panel is a large foot with 5 toes (Figure 11).

The center of the panel contains a lizard person (wavy arms and legs) heading toward what appears to be a passage between two rocks (Figure 11).

On the right side of Figure 11, is a figure with many appendages (spider woman?)

At the right bottom of Figure 11 is an anthro that appears to be climbing the rock face. This is poorly defined because of the angle of the photo.

**The panel to the right of the ruin** was the main panel of the site. **This is the basket panel** (Figure 13). This panel contains at least 10 images of burden baskets, all up-right, indicating they are full; i.e. this must have been a very prosperous area. It has a large valley floor where farming could have been done and it is not far from a source of pine nuts.

Figure 14 shows a close up of the lower left of basket panel.

Figure 15 shows a hunting scene with bow and arrow.

Figure 16 shows a figure that appears to be similar to one on the left panel (see Figure 11 – center right). This figure appears to be repeated at least 2 or 3 more times on the basket panel.

Figure 17 shows a close-up of the center left of the basket panel. There are burden baskets and vertical serpents or power lines. Also shown is a rectangular image. Most interesting is an image of a foot or a face with feathers (like Indian Canyon), with what appear to be eyes and a mouth formed from holes in the rock.



Figure 13 – the basket panel



Figure 14 – Left side of Basket Panel



Figure 15 – Hunting Scene



Figure 16 – Similar to Figure 11



Figure 17 – Close-up of Basket Panel

Figure 18 shows a close-up of the top left of the basket panel. It shows a large horizontal serpent along with some smaller horizontal serpents along with a large basket.

Figure 19 shows the center of the basket panel. Here there are a number of baskets, vertical serpents and a horizontal design at the top.



Figure 18 – Top Left of Basket Panel



Figure 19 – Top Center of Basket Panel

Figure 20 shows a design that is different for the rest of the panel. One image is of two filled in circles connected with a line and the entire image is surrounded with another line that encircles the design. A design to the right shows a filled circle connected to a cross.

Figure 21 shows a large sheep with internal organs (a spiral and at 3 filled circles and another filled shape connected to the head with a line). Above the sheep is a spiral, Below the sheep is another image similar to the one in Figure 16. There is a sheep show partially on the extreme bottom right of the figure.

Figure 22 and 23 show an anthro (ancestor spirit being) on either side of a group of 4 portals. There appears to be a figure at the bottom of the portals (beginning his journey).



Figure 20 - ?????



Figure 21 – Sheep with Internal Organs



Figure 22 – Spirit Person



Figure 23 – Spirit Person with Portals

This looked like a prosperous; burden baskets full, a hunting scene, sheep, deer / elk glyphs. It also looks like a place where many different stories were told, spirals told of journeys, portals, ancestor spirits, horizontal and vertical serpents, spider woman, and kilakilo (sp?) glyphs. It also looks like a place where the western horizon and sky could be viewed. This is a very good site.

This site was viewed in mid afternoon with full sun, which made photography difficult. This site should probably be viewed in the morning in order to see the glyphs without the glare of the sun.