

Look at All Those Faces!

Rev1.1

By Russ Bennett

So many times I will enter into a paranormal message forum or chat room and be presented with an over pixilated heavily filtered image that someone took. These things will even come in my email for a quick diagnosis. I will stare at the skewed image being thankful that the amateur hunter was thinking of me when he placed big red circles around the areas of interest. While sitting in these chat rooms it never fails that as I study an image a message pops up. The conversation typically goes as follows:

“Do you see the faces?” the young hunter asks.

“Not really.” I return.

I think to myself, “thankfully I have those big red circles to guide me to where the faces are though!”

“They are plain as day!” the other returns.

I say to myself, “I suppose the pixels could be seen as faces.”

“Come on...their good right?” the other presses.

Of course I have to be honest to this person that I really don't know other than sitting in chat with.

“No, actually your image is heavily altered by lighting, enlarging and then placing those big red circles all over. I think you are just looking at pixels.”

The amateur hunter doesn't respond for a long time until finally, “you don't know anything! These are great

paranormal images! Those faces are plain as day...”

An incident like this happens in all paranormal chat media's unfortunately. I witness someone mentioning faces being seen on floors, ceilings, windows, etc. all the time. It never ceases to amaze me. In one chat I sat through, an individual saw 25 faces in a picture of my house and told me that I should seek a cleansing for it since the house was so haunted.

I know my house isn't haunted (well, maybe it is), but not by 25 ghosts! Come on! In my little 1600sq. ft. house I would have ecto dripping out of my nose (Hmm, I wonder if that last cold I had was...oh, never mind).

What I am driving at is this. We have all seen the face of the man on the moon. We have probably seen a potato chip shaped like a dead president. We have probably even seen clothing tossed on a ground in such a shape to remind us of a long lost pet. These misperceptions or illusions from the vague stimulus challenge us and make us perceive something that is not really there. This is called Pareidolia and is defined as the misperception of an ambiguous stimulus as something specific.

As an example, take a certain tortilla, owned by one Mrs. Mario Rubio. While rolling a burrito she noticed that in the discoloration of the burnt areas of the tortilla one can see the face of Jesus. Was it really Jesus trying to communicate with us through a tortilla or were there certain vague characteristics on the tortilla that made us perceive Jesus as we see him in common prints and wall hangings? Mrs. Rubio's tortilla can be viewed by going to this website

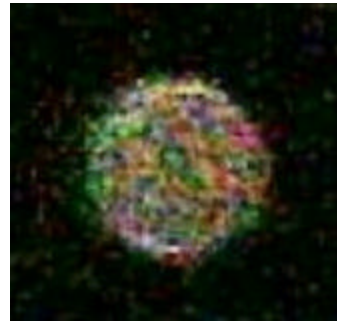
<http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/electronic-publications/stay-free/5/jesus.htm>.

Another example just recently was a bourn a woman selling a partially eaten grilled cheese sandwich on eBay. It purportedly had the image of the virgin Mary on it. The sandwich sold for USD\$65,000.

Our bodies seek a homeostasis or equilibrium within it. When we are presented with a stimulus that is chaotic or abnormal our body will react. The result being, a mechanism within our body to compensate for the imbalance. Seeing faces or recognizable shapes and objects in otherwise chaotic or abnormal patterns causes that mechanism to begin an equalization process within our internal environment.

The latest craze for face finding is orbs. I won't go into what I feel orb's are so I will give the generic paranormal definition of an orb and save my concept for a later article. Orbs are typically thought of as being a manifestation of the ghost. They are looked at as small light producing energy globules that are either part of the ghost or caused by the ghost. They are captured by being burned on a negative (photograph), digital camera, or video camera. Typically when an orb is captured on the camera it shows as having a hard outer "shell" and then a bunch of googly-gook inside the outer shell. It's this orb googly-gook that people see faces and suspect to be the face of the person that the orb use to be. Below is an image of an orb that has been colorized to show the randomness of the googly-gook. Some investigators define the finding of faces within the googly-gook as matrixing. It's where the person puts together the pixelization of the object to build a face.

Can you see a face in the chaotic pattern? I can see three or four depending on how I am standing.



One of the faces looks a bit like Crusty the Clown. Am I really seeing a face? Nope, but my body is making me think I am because the inside of the orb is so chaotic and my simple human brain can't handle disorganization, so it tries to assemble a recognizable pattern by using the smallest element of the image.

I was given this image by a young ghost hunter just recently.



Notice the red circles. I'm not sure what the deal is with red circles but I would say that 98% of people that circle things in pictures use red....okay, back on track. The areas were looked at to be faces and bodies. A bunch of them! This web cam is in low light and pushing about 25 fps. Due to the amount of people visiting the site the images are compressed to cut down on bandwidth utilization. So what a person gets when

looking at this image is a good deal of pixelation to scrutinize. These cams however are very worth viewing and a lot of information has been collected by their use (You can view them at <http://www.researchwebcam.com/> and their main website at <http://www.okcgc.com>).

Not everything we see is attributed to Pareidolia, and I would be a complete moron if I said every face, and every figure in a captured image was. There have been some astonishing images of ghosts captured on camera that are worthy to be in the books, but also know that without heavy scrutiny there can be disaster and loss of credibility for any group.

To prevent any loss of credibility to your group, or paranormal researchers in general, If you have to alter an image never display the altered image independent of the unaltered image. Let other people look at your image. Be open to critiques, good or bad. It is these critiques that will save you a lot of heartache. If you are unsure, then get on the web and find an impartial ghost club and seek their advice. It is important that we all work together in this field because if we don't then how can we ever accomplish our shared goals?