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Archaeology Southwest explores and protects the places of our past across the American Southwest and Mexican Northwest. We have developed a holistic, conservation-based approach known as Preservation Archaeology. By looking forward and acting now, we are achieving protections and creating meaningful connections between people and history that will benefit generations to come. Learn more at www.archaeologysouthwest.org.

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### **ISSUE EDITOR:**

Aaron M. Wright

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Cover image: Petroglyph panels above pueblo architecture at Crack-in-the-Rock (also Crackin-Rock) site on Wupatki National Monument. In this issue of *Archaeology Southwest Magazine*, we encourage readers to think of rock art within the physical and social contexts of its makers' lives. Image: © Elias Butler

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**Contact Linda Pierce** at (520)882–6946, ext. 23, or lpierce@archaeologysouthwest.org to learn how to support our mission through an endowment.



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## Pictograph at Quail Point

#### ROBERT MARK AND EVELYN BILLO RUPESTRIAN CYBERSERVICES

*Together with* the late Donald E. Weaver Jr. and more than 50 volunteers, we documented 2,000 panels of petroglyphs at Sears Point, Arizona, from 2008 to 2011—*and found no pictographs*. In fact, to our knowledge, pictographs have not been reported along the lower Gila River below the Painted Rock Mountains.

During a 2013 rock art reconnaissance trip to Quail Point, just upstream from Sears Point, we saw a hint of faded red color. The image below shows the surface we photographed. The geometric pictograph design was confirmed in the field through the use of a Canon camera with DStretch, a tool developed by Jon Harman. Computer enhancement of the original digital photograph displays the details of the panel.

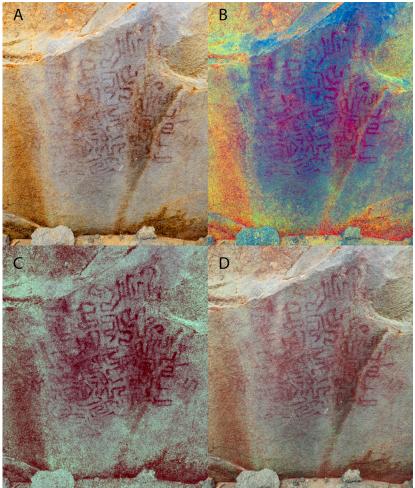
Photoshop enhancements take advantage of alternative color space, whereas DStretch uses the decorrelation stretch algorithm. These tools can be combined, using Photoshop layer combination modes, to great effect. The image at right shows



**Above:** Quail Point pictograph panel as photographed. **Right:** Four enhancements of the original image using: a) Photoshop (slLABa); b) DStretch (lds); c) DStretch (yre); d) combined Photoshop and DStretch (sl\_yre). IMAGES: ROBERT MARK

results of four enhancements, using Photoshop, DStretch, and a combination of both.

Sears Point and Antelope Hill are the only lower Gila River rock art sites to have been reported in detail. We have briefly visited 11 other sites where we saw only petroglyphs. Careful mapping and documentation of these other sites with the aid of image enhancement may reveal additional pictographs. Even if no more paintings are found, detailed documentation of the carvings will provide data about the distribution of design elements, which might help archaeologists unravel the history of human presence along the lower Gila River.



Learn more about DStretch at www.dstretch.com. The apps iDStretch (by Jon Harman) and LabStretch (by Robert Mark) are now available for iOS.