

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center presents:

# Subjective Color in Mimbres Black-on-white Pottery

Free Presentation by Archaeologist Dr. Stephanie M. Whittlesey for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" Dinner Series

Many Mimbres black-on-white geometric designs produce the illusion of color when rotated rapidly, much like the subjective-color hallucination that has been known in the psychology of perception for more than a century. Subjective color is one of numerous neurophysiologically induced visual hallucinations that are universal in human beings and are produced by epilepsy, migraines, hallucinogens, certain diseases, and other causes.

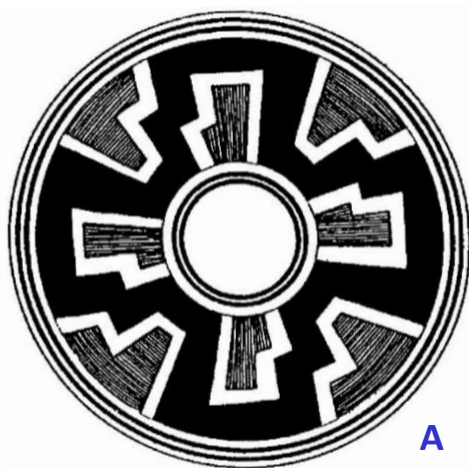
In this month's Third Thursday presentation Dr. Whittlesey will describe the phenomenon and the design characteristics that produce it, discuss similar visual hallucinations in the scientific literature, and speculate on the contribution of subjective color to Mimbres ritual organization. She argues that the illusion was deliberately produced by Mimbres potters and may have been used by shamans to induce trance states or in mimetic rituals to bring rain. At least some of the designs may have been created by shamans themselves who had experienced the visions induced during trances and shamanic journeys.

**6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday February 20, 2020\***

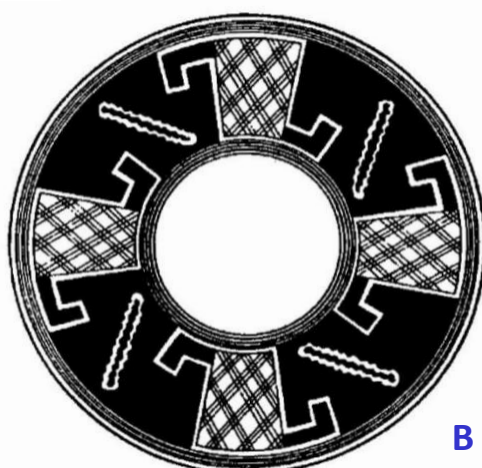
**at Karichimaka Mexican Restaurant, 5252 S. Mission Rd., Tucson**

\* Reservations are required and must be confirmed by Old Pueblo before 5 p.m. Wednesday March 18.

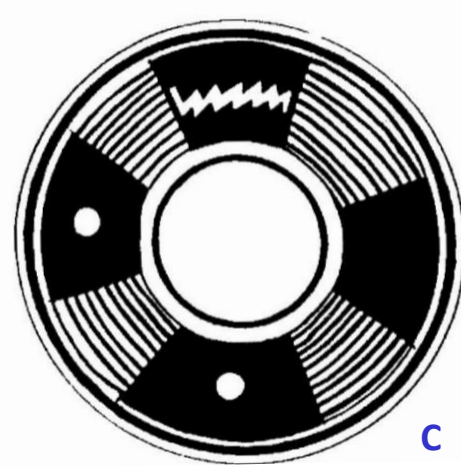
To request reservations contact Old Pueblo at [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org) or 520-798-1201.



A

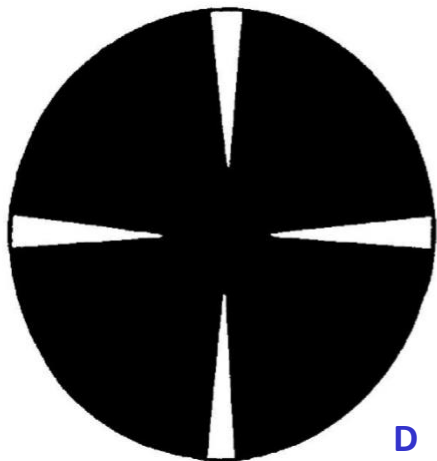


B

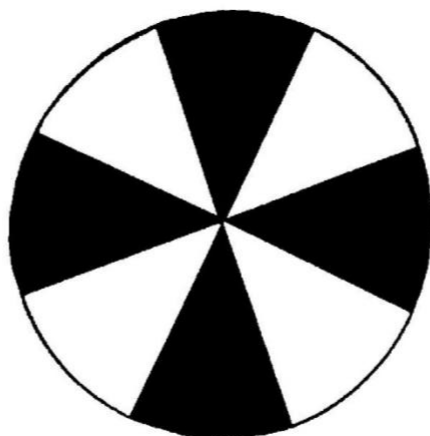


C

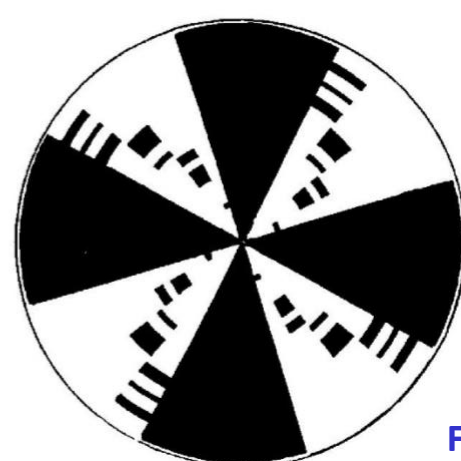
Illustrations A-C are actual Mimbres pot designs that produce subjective color. Designs D-F are disks that produce subjective color. Together, they show the design similarities and the components of the designs that create the illusion of color when rotated rapidly.



D



E



F

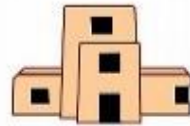
# Subjective Color in Mimbres Black-on-white Pottery . . .

Order your own dinner off of the restaurant's menu

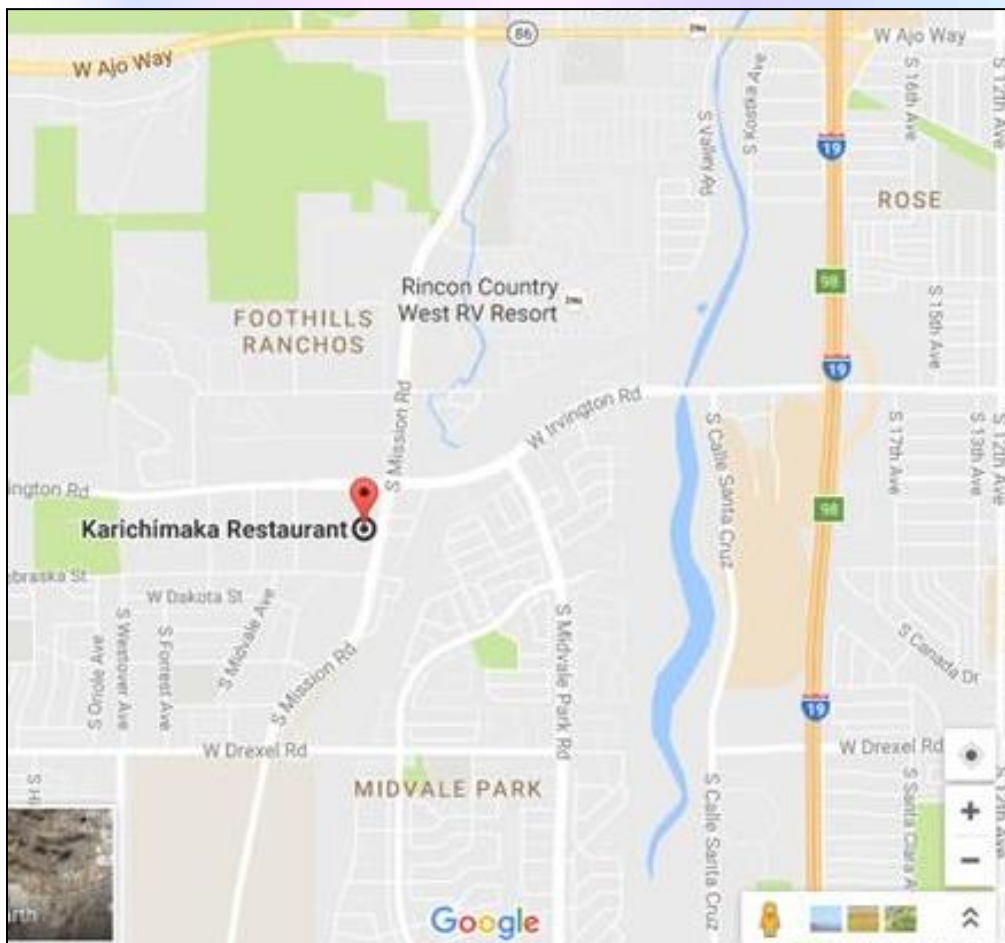
at your expense starting at 6 p.m. The presentation will start around 7.

Donations will be requested to benefit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's educational efforts.

**This month's guest presenter Stephanie Whittlesey** received her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Arizona and has worked in cultural resource management and academic archaeology since 1976. Her employers have included the Arizona State Museum (University of Arizona), Statistical Research, Inc., and the Western New Mexico University Museum, among others. Dr. Whittlesey has an extensive publication record, ranging from contract reports to peer-reviewed journal articles to chapters in edited books. With her husband, J. Jefferson Reid, she has published five books on the archaeology of Arizona and Grasshopper Pueblo, a 500-room Mogollon Pueblo on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. They were published by the University of Arizona Press and were written with nonprofessional readers in mind.



In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Whittlesey has been active in public outreach, scripting, narrating, and producing videos; creating classroom materials; and preparing exhibits and booklets to bring archaeology to the public. An excellent public speaker, she has presented lectures and demonstrations for public audiences throughout Arizona and New Mexico. She has recently expanded her work to include novels with an archaeological bent.



Map shows location of the restaurant where the dinner and presentation will be held.

Drawings on page 1 courtesy of Stephanie Whittlesey

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