

## THE PHANTOM PHONE BOOTH



This is a photograph I took into a Mission field from the car. When I looked at the photo I immediately noticed a strange addition to this familiar and usually empty pasture.



I cropped this very  
strange  
manifestation out.

No-one expects to  
find a phantom  
phone box sitting  
in the middle of a  
field that usually  
only has cows in it.

Well, maybe I  
should by now.



When I edited this OOPart, it led to some surprises.

The shape of the box is obvious and precise, and I can see people in it.

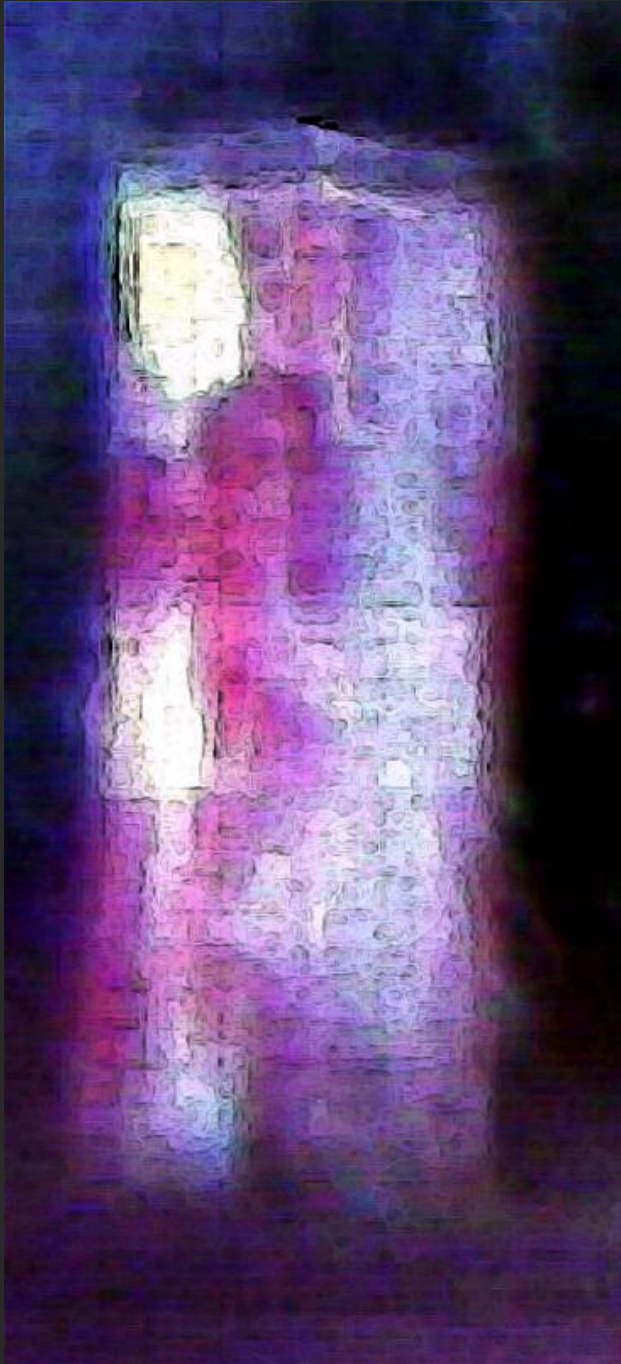
Someone is standing in the booth and I can see the misty shape of a little girl in an outfit with a flared skirt, although she looks like she's standing just outside it.

As usual with my photographs, other anomalies and faces are visible, but I will be concentrating on the two main figures in the little vignette.



I've adjusted the color, contrast and exposure of the image.

I can see someone tall standing in the box and the little girl is reaching up to them with her left arm.

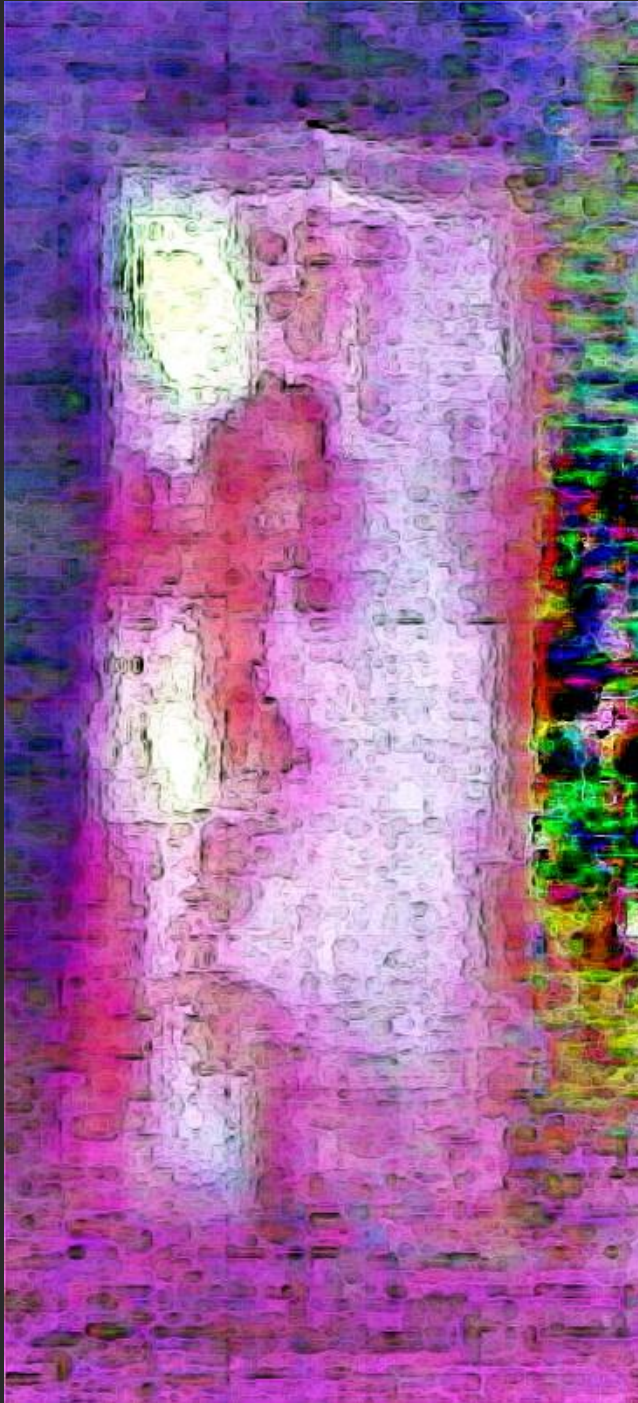


Outlined lightly, details are picked out delicately.

A man is standing talking on the phone, facing out from the box. A little girl tugs at his right arm with her left hand.

She is looking over her shoulder towards the viewer. A small oblong object sits in front of her lower legs, which is why I can't get a clear image of them.

I believe it to be a briefcase or small suitcase.



The image has been lightened considerably.

This clarifies some of the details even more. The man's eyes and face can be seen.

The little case sitting on the ground just outside the booth is clearer now. I can't tell if the little girl is standing inside or outside the booth.

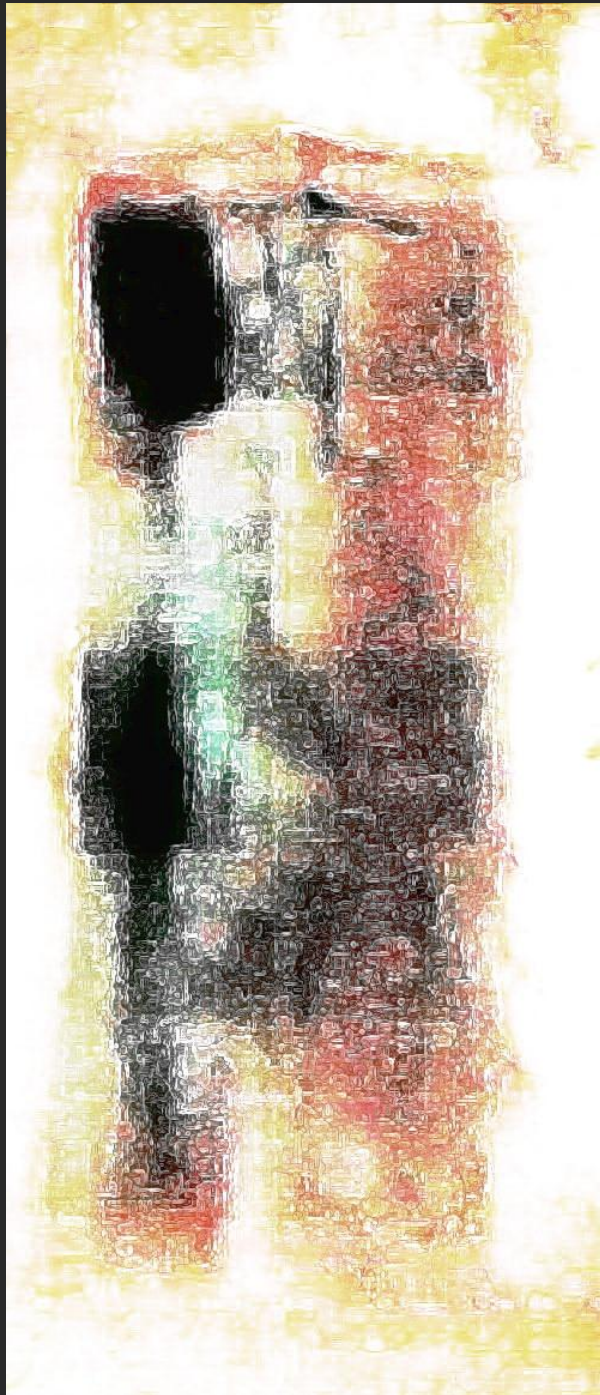
She seems to be behind the case but her skirt and body looks as if they are in front of the booth, as they are obscuring the vertical line that marks one of the corners of the box.



I have made a negative image that has made the man easier to see.

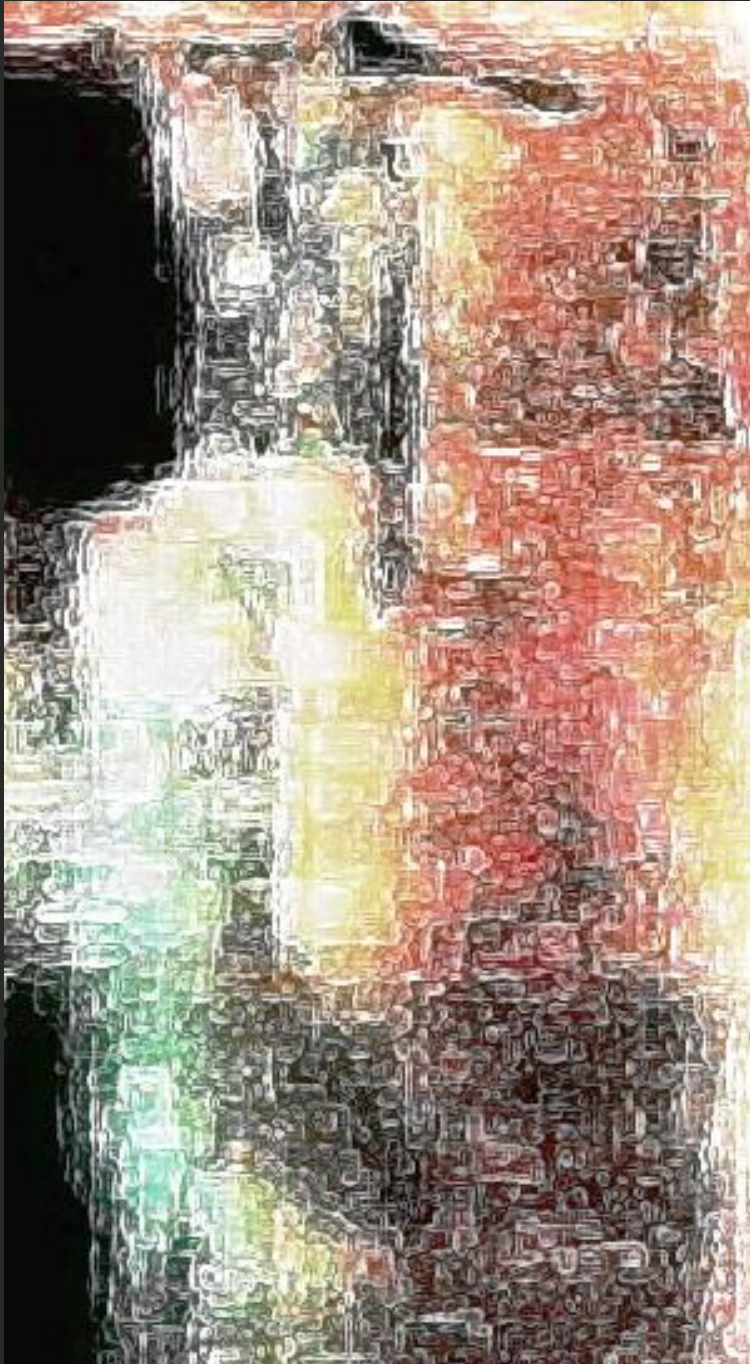
As the little girl's image was very tenuous in the first place her ghostly little form is seen as very dark here, but if you look carefully her face is actually more visible than in the positive image as she looks behind her away from the phone box.

The man seems to be looking out with some concern also. The little case is visible on the ground as a box-like shape.



Lightening and sharpening the picture makes the child's face more visible, but it seems clearer seen from a distance rather than close-up, which is often the case with what are really often only tiny portions cropped from photographs.

It's something of a miracle that we are able to see them at all, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to both see them myself and share my work in this way.



I've cropped the man from the waist up and enlarged the image so that you can examine it closely for yourself.

The child's head can be seen turned towards us, colored orange, but it's fainter than the man's.

Other small faces can be seen faintly. You may be able to see some of them.



This image was edited in a curves program. I nearly didn't include it as it doesn't add much information, but I noticed a face at the top of the phone booth. It's very cartoon-like but it's definitely there. It doesn't seem to belong to the man with the little girl, but it may do, or it may be associated with him.

The face is in more or less the same position as the man's but seems smaller in size. The other interesting thing is that the black area on the right containing all the white circular shapes corresponds to the little girl's body. I did notice she seemed different in substance to the man she is obviously with.

It's hard to say what may have impressed this seemingly insignificant event upon my camera, or why the phantom phone box showed up when and where it did, but perhaps the image is associated with some heavily charged or traumatic event. I could speculate for a long time over many of the images I've received.

Perhaps in this instance they were leaving home and making a difficult phone call, or were knocked down by an out-of-control vehicle. It sounds horrible, but it's just the kind of event that impresses itself very strongly on the atmosphere and location around it.

Another explanation is that the image is in some way connected to someone living in the vicinity I took the photo in. I don't suppose I shall ever know, but that doesn't make it any the less fascinating.

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