another language
performing arts company

Spotlight

Mine Entrance   **Photograph: Jennifer Gray**

Standardville, Utah

Another Language Performing Arts Company is developing it's newest project, *Ghost Town*. This work takes place completely online and is crowd sourced! We are excited to open participation to artists of all genres. This newsletter edition features Kevin Gray's ghost town project:

Ghost Town: Standardville - Helper, Utah - By Kevin Gray

Spring Canyon winds deep into the surrounding mountains to the west of Helper, Utah. Along this canyon lie the scattered remains of several ghost towns, and the abandoned coal mines they were established to serve. For almost a hundred years, from the late 1800s until the 1950s, coal was king here, because it was vital to the railroads to fuel their steam engines. After WW II,

Standardville Coal Bunker   **Photograph: Kevin Gray**

when the railroads finally retired their great steam locomotive fleets, most of the smaller coal mines died with the engines they once fueled. And the towns in Spring Canyon that supported the mines dried up and blew away.

Standardville was established in 1912 to serve the Standard Mine; the town was so modern and well planned, with beautiful lawns, roads and trees that it became the 'standard' for mining towns to follow, and this resulted in its name. Today, the only things readily visible are a long, low retaining wall, cracked foundations, a few ruined buildings, and an enormous concrete coal storage structure. The collapsed and flooded mine entrance is just up a small canyon above the town; strange white-tinted water trickles from the ruined mine portal. Chunks of coal are strewn everywhere. The bathhouse, where the miners changed their clothes before and after their shifts in the mine, has been burned, bludgeoned, shattered, and tagged, but it still stands.

I discovered Standardville while researching Utah ghost towns on the Internet. After finding out a bit about its history, I started looking in Spring Canyon on Google Earth to find it; I was pleasantly surprised to see that there were still some structures visible in the canyon, although which town was which was hard to determine. A short visit proved that there was a lot more to see (and climb over) than what Google Earth had shown; the literal "ground truth" of the site is that what looks easy to get to on GE is not at all easy when you're actually walking there!

About Kevin Gray;

Kevin Gray is an Industrial Designer who has over 34 years experience in toy design as well as electronic and animatronics design and engineering. He has acted as handler to several electronic toys for commercials and presentations and his RC tank 'Gizmo' was featured in Modern Marvels opening for the show 'Models'. In his spare time Kevin enjoys working with remote control cars, planes, ships, and tanks. He also enjoys exploring ghost towns and abandoned places with his wife Jennifer.
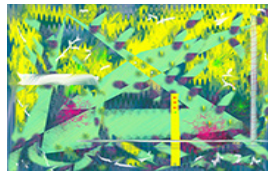
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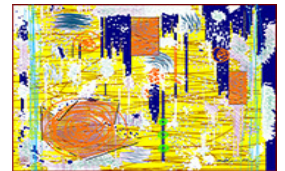|		
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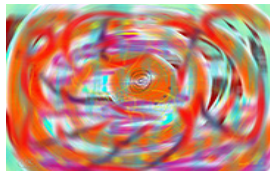
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Newsletter

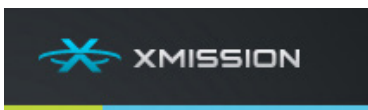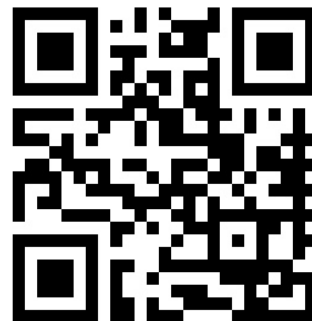## WHAT IS A QR CODE?
By Jimmy Miklavcic

A Quick Response (QR) Code is made up of square dots (modules) arranged in a square grid on a white background. This configuration can be read by a camera or cell phone, processed and interpreted to reveal the data present in the horizontal and vertical components of the image.

QR Code was developed in response to a need for a code system that carried more information than the twenty alphanumeric characters that the current bar code could provide. The new code was created by Masahiro Hara and a colleague and released in 1994 by Denso Wave (then a division of Denso Corporation, later owned by Toyota). The code system, with its two dimensional data design, was capable of coding around 7,000 numerals and Kanji characters and could be read more than 10 times faster then other code systems.

The QR Code was mostly used in Japan's automobile industry for tracking production tasks, shipping and transaction slips. It has now become widely used through out the world in various industries such as shipping, retail and others. Although Denso Wave retains the patent rights of the QR Code, it has chosen not to exercise them and allow free public use of the system.

Since 2002, the QR Code has evolved and has found a place in the creative world. Many artists are creating artistic QR images that actually work when scanned. Another Language will be using the code for it's next project, Ghost Town. Participating artists, when selecting the ghost town that they will visit, can print up a QR Code that will correspond to the website where the artists' content for the chosen ghost town will reside. The code will be placed at the ghost town for other visitors to scan and be directed to the Ghost Town area on the Another Language Performing Arts Company's website.

One can down load QR readers free from their respective app store. If you have a QR reader on your mobile device, scan the QR codes below and see where they take you.