

Digital Forensic Report

Case: #001

Task: Assignment-11

Name: Ishtiaq Ahmed

ID: AC15R



Date: 23 November 2023

1. Case Information

- **Case Number:** #001
- **Date:** 23 November 2023
- **Investigating Examiner:** Ishtiaq Ahmed
- **Subject:** Photo Forensic Analysis – Authenticity of Images with Animal

This forensic analysis strives to confirm two digital-image pictures depicting an animal with four eyes as authentic. The pictures, hereafter referred to as *Image A* and *Image B*, have been put forth as evidence during an investigation over potential digital alterations or editing. Ensuring these photographs' authenticity is critical to creating an accurate representation of scenes or events, as these photographs attempt to do.



(a) Picture A



(b) Picture B

Figure 1:

On 12th November 2023, these photographs were officially sent for forensic examination in order to determine their fidelity to original scenes at the time of capture. The provenance of photographs—the origin, acquisition setting, and any pertinent background information—will also be subject to critical analysis. The analysis will also entail an in-depth inquiry into metadata, technical information, and image content for ascertaining potential evidence of manipulation or invention.

2. Photo Analysis: Image A

2.1 Digest

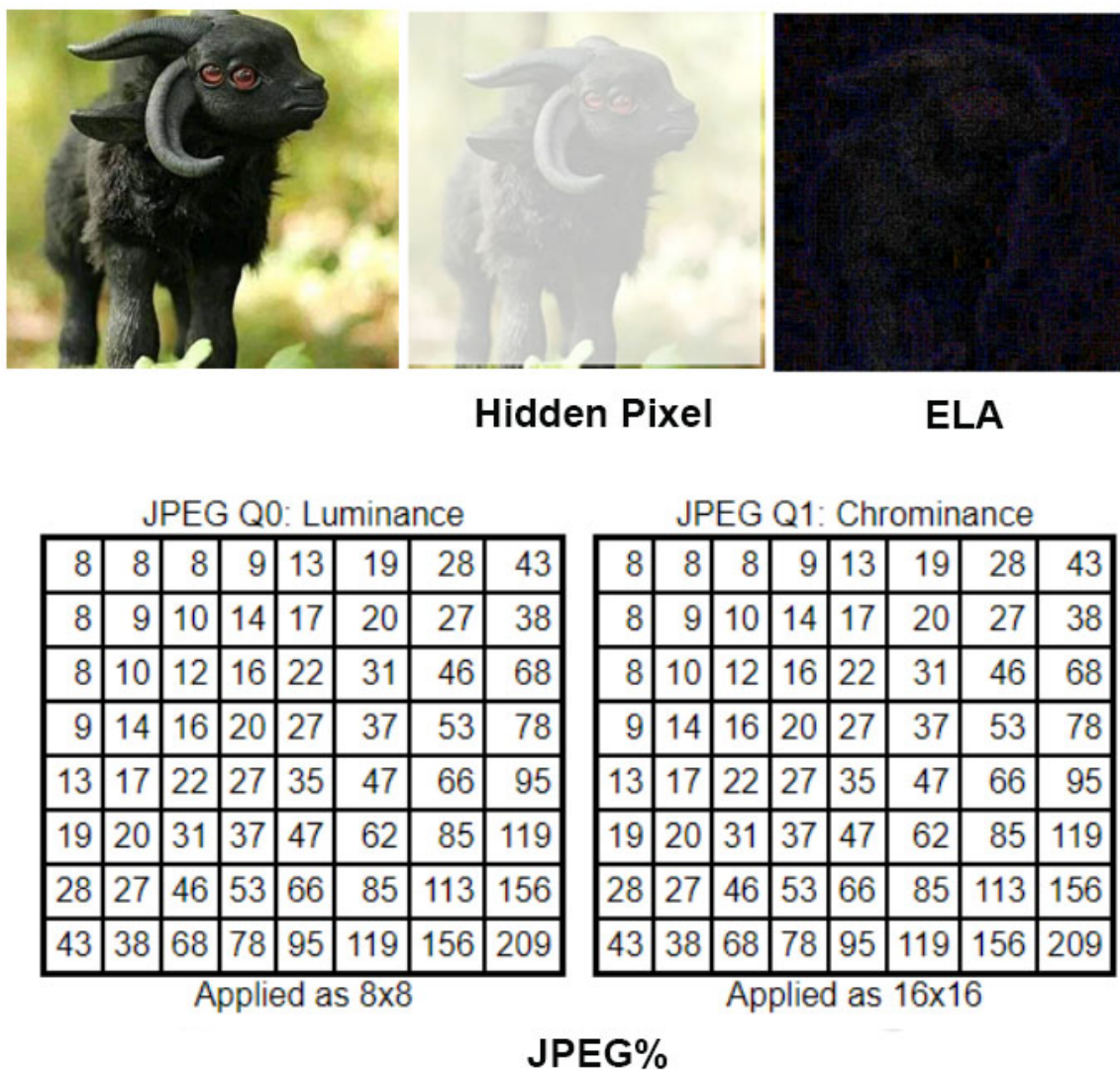


Figure 2: Photo Analysis: Image A

Property	Value
File Type	image/jpeg
Dimensions	540×540
Color Channels	3
Unique Colors	60104
File Size	24,455 bytes
MD5	db0848abf5a83a015b7b98b626ba746f
SHA1	927b99c2acdf1efc8c59786ac3c4e9f9be7b3bf2
SHA256	43fa17ce1b9d93571e8fcc9a2ebe6d3137a1d6e283a0e7eed a6d568250533bf8
First Analyzed	2020-11-11 02:51:27 GMT

2.2 Technical Observations

- Error Level Analysis (ELA): performed.
- Hidden Pixel: Hidden Padding 4×4.
- JPEG quality (estimated): 68%; quantization tables reported.
- Metadata: JPEG (progressive DCT, Huffman coding), 8 bits/sample, 3 color components, YCbCr 4:2:0 subsampling.
- JFIF: version 1.01; resolution 96×96 dpi.
- ICC+: No embedded color profile. The photo was edited by Adobe software.

2.3 Comment

The photo exists in the real world but is likely created by an artist; it is not generated by a computer program. It depicts a sculpture of a mythical creature.

3. Photo Analysis: Image B

3.1 Digest

Property	Value
File Type	image/jpeg
Dimensions	540×540
Color Channels	3
Unique Colors	56074
File Size	31,101 bytes
MD5	376c7b1f1d4a845e54d15f3f6b52b5ab
SHA1	4fde0371ccb83b1e0d99f0da56e410b1b5ee54e2
SHA256	d613bcba6c7e56481fa09f2f64a976821298602ae4b7608a0fa75937b31d441f
First Analyzed	2020-11-10 15:40:47 GMT

3.2 Technical Observations

- Error Level Analysis (ELA): performed.
- Hidden Pixel: Hidden Padding 4×4.
- JPEG quality (estimated): 68%.

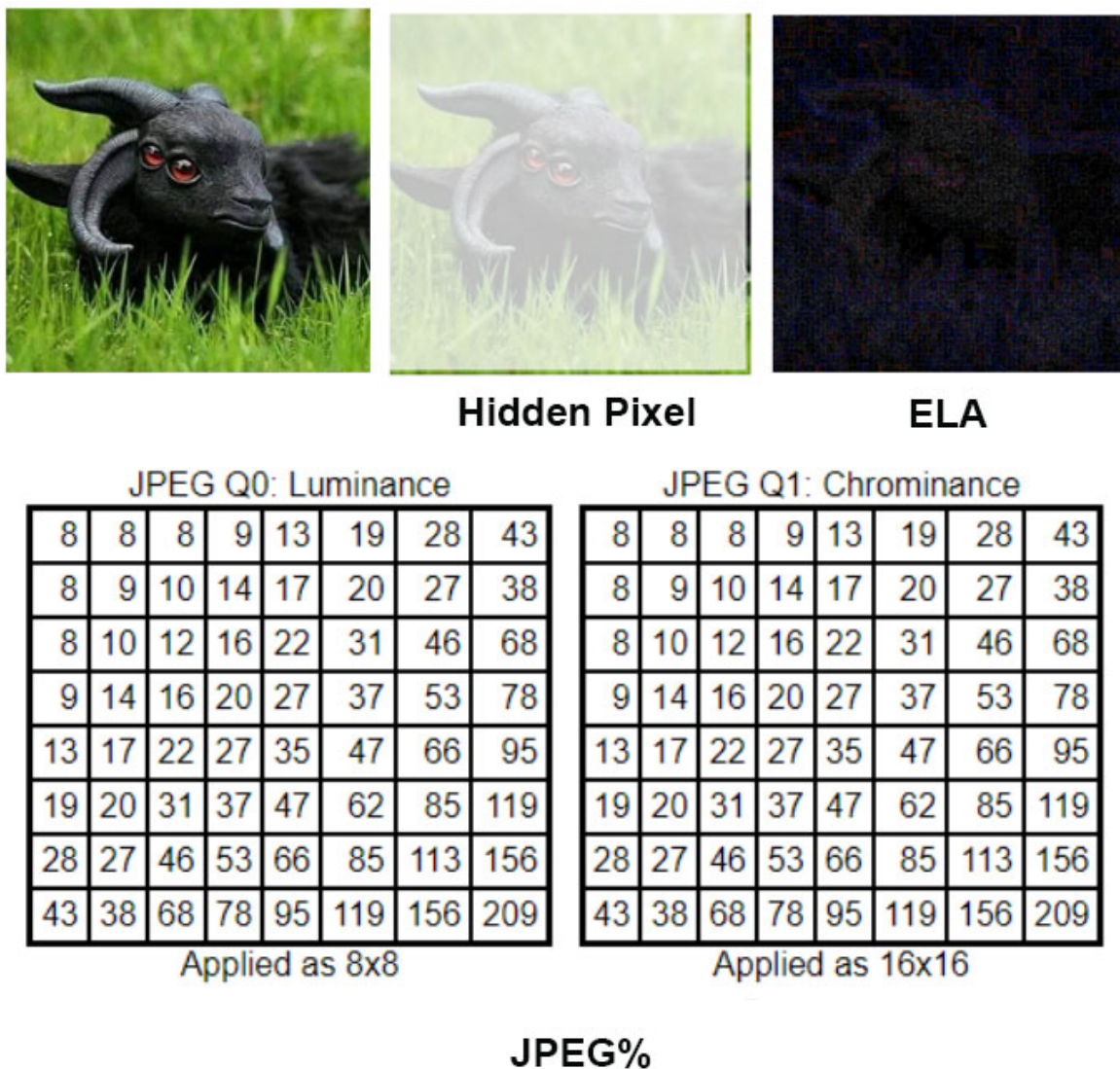


Figure 3: Photo Analysis: Image B

- Metadata: JPEG (progressive DCT, Huffman coding), 8 bits/sample, 3 color components, YCbCr 4:2:0 subsampling.
- JFIF: version 1.01; resolution 96×96 dpi; image size 540×540 (0.292 MP).
- ICC+: No embedded color profile. The photo was edited by Adobe software.

3.3 Comment

This image is also likely made by an artist and not computer-generated. It shows a mythical creature sculpture.

4. Tools Used

Image Scanner; reverse-image search; metadata checker; Adobe Photoshop CS6; Autopsy; FTK Imager.

5. Reference Findings

During investigation, social media users claimed the creature was a newly discovered animal in South Sudan. A Facebook post read:

“A new Animal discovered in South Sudan with four eyes. See the Incredible beauty of Africa. What do you call this animal?”

Reverse-image searches indicated that the photos are of a figurine of a Basque mythical creature named **Akerbeltz**, created by Spanish artist **Álvaro Herranz** (@fuegofatuoart on Instagram).

Related posts:

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/B3hkvbjIFvy/?igshid=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/CFzJiD8FzSw/?igshid=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>

An additional caption explains Akerbeltz as a creature from Basque mythology, historically linked to nature and animal protection, later associated with witches and covens.

6. Conclusion

The research affirms that the claim regarding the existence of a four-eyed creature is baseless. The photographs under review do not show an actual creature; rather, they show an artwork hand-crafted by one Spanish sculptor. Made of resin, ball-and-socket joints made of plastic, and artificial fur, this piece showcases skilled craftsmanship and not any biological reality. It follows that the photographs ought not to pass as evidence of a factual animal, but as artwork.