Husick Group
Extraordinary Investigations

REMOTE VIEWING THE NAMI ISLAND PAGODA: Husick Group Response to Sept. 2019 Article in *The Observer*

Journalist Amelia Tait took a look at the "precog economy" in the Sept. 29, 2019 edition of *The Observer* magazine*:* https://www.theguardian.com/global/2019/sep/29/psychic-future-what-next-for-the-precognition-economy?fbclid=IwAR2s9b8BKw07i82TrpSqUAKkq2ST8qe8zKwMJwUbCUF-aYoWh6hhzcYvAF0

The *Observer* article contains a somewhat mixed review of a successful remote viewing demonstration conducted by the Husick Group at the request of the journalist. It also reflects some confusion on the part of the journalist regarding the remote viewing process and the analysis of remote viewing results. This response is intended to set the record straight, and also to educate others who may have questions similar to those asked by the journalist.

BACKGROUND

The Target

The target selected by the journalist was a small, hut-like structure on the northeastern shore of Nami Island in South Korea where the journalist's boyfriend had proposed to her a few months earlier. (Throughout the *Observer* article, this structure is referred to as a "pagoda." Technically, a "pagoda" is a multi-tiered structure in the style of a Hindu or Buddhist temple, whereas the target structure is more of a rustic gazebo. However, for the sake of consistency, the "pagoda" nomenclature used in the *Observer* article will be followed here.)

Nami Island, depicted in the map below, has a land mass of 430,000 square meters, or less than one-fifth of one square mile. This tiny island, visited by over one million foreign tourists each year, is packed with features including gardens, sculptures, restaurants and performance venues. The island was formed in 1944 when dam construction inundated the surrounding land. The island is named for the fifteenth-century military figure General Nami, who died after being falsely accused of treason. General Nami's grave was not re-discovered, but a pile of stones was found on the island where his body was believed to have been buried. The supposed grave site was later landscaped into a monument in connection with the development of Nami Island as a tourist destination.

Source: namisum.com

The location of the target pagoda is on the northeastern shore of the island, as marked on the above map with a red "X." Note that the map is oriented with the east end up. (The statement in the *Observer* article that the target pagoda is in the "northwestern corner" of the island appears to be in error. In private correspondence, the journalist confirmed that the location of the target pagoda is, in fact, where the red "X" is shown above, on the northeastern shore of the island. The target pagoda can also be found on google maps "street view" at the spot corresponding to the red "X.")

The Process

After accepting the challenge to perform a "demo," Gail Husick provided the journalist with guidelines for target selection. The target needed be real (as opposed to imaginary); it needed to be something that was not traumatic (for instance, it should not be something like the Twin Towers on 9/11 – no need to put the viewers through that sort of experience just for a demo); it needed to be appropriate for a public demonstration (nothing that would violate anyone's privacy or intellectual property rights, nothing that would raise national security concerns, etc.); and it needed be something for which feedback would be available at completion of the demo. Within these minimal constraints, the journalist had free rein to select any target she desired, and the target she selected did indeed meet the agreed-upon requirements.

Once the target was selected, the only information that the journalist provided to Gail Husick was that the target was a "location" (as opposed to something like an "event" or "person" or "object"). The fact that the target was a "location" was passed on to the viewers to allow them to focus their efforts on the desired category of information.

In retrospect, the assignment would have been much easier if the journalist had designated the target as an "object," as this would have allowed the viewers to focus primarily on the pagoda. When the Husick Group viewers are tasked with a "location" target, they are trained to provide information not only about the exact target spot (in this case, the pagoda), but also about nearby landmarks (of which Nami Island has an abundance). This approach comes from working on missing-person cases with law enforcement clients, who often find the landmark information necessary to narrow the search area to a manageable size.

Thirteen Husick Group viewers participated in the demonstration. All viewers worked independently from each other, communicating only with the project manager (Gail Husick) about their assignments. Viewers were told nothing about the target aside from the fact that it was a "location," nor were they informed that their assignment was a demo or that it was for a journalist, until after all viewers had submitted their results in writing.

How to Evaluate

As explained to the journalist, remote viewing should be considered as a signal-to-noise challenge. As with anything dependent on the human mind, results will rarely be 100% accurate. In real-world applications, perfection is neither realistic nor necessary. The goal is to provide the client with information that is useful in solving the client's problem, especially when the client may have had difficulty obtaining the needed information from more conventional sources.

The *Observer* article arguably over-emphasizes the "noise" and leaves the impression that the Husick Group team was less successful in extracting information from the "signal" than was actually the case. The *Observer* article also suggests that the undeniable "hits" of the Husick Group team might be due to mere chance, given the large volume of information that the team provided. The article makes much of the fact that 200+ session pages were produced. However, this works out to only about fifteen pages per viewer, and these are not densely marked pages. Most pages contain handwritten impressions in outline form, while other pages have nothing on them but one or two sketches. The idea that everything under the sun was contained in the session work of the Husick Group viewers, and that therefore multiple, specific "hits" were bound to arise from random chance, defies common sense.

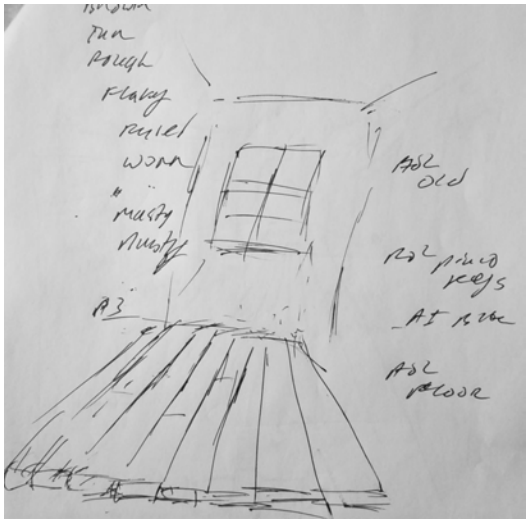
The "Results" section below should provide a better basis for evaluating whether the Husick Group team cleared the "random chance" hurdle and met the "usefulness" test.

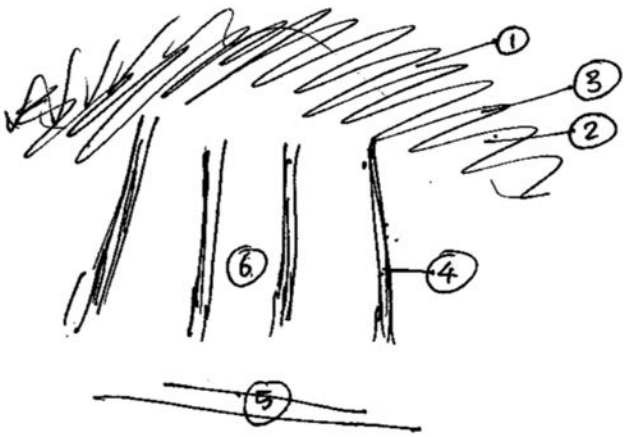
RESULTS

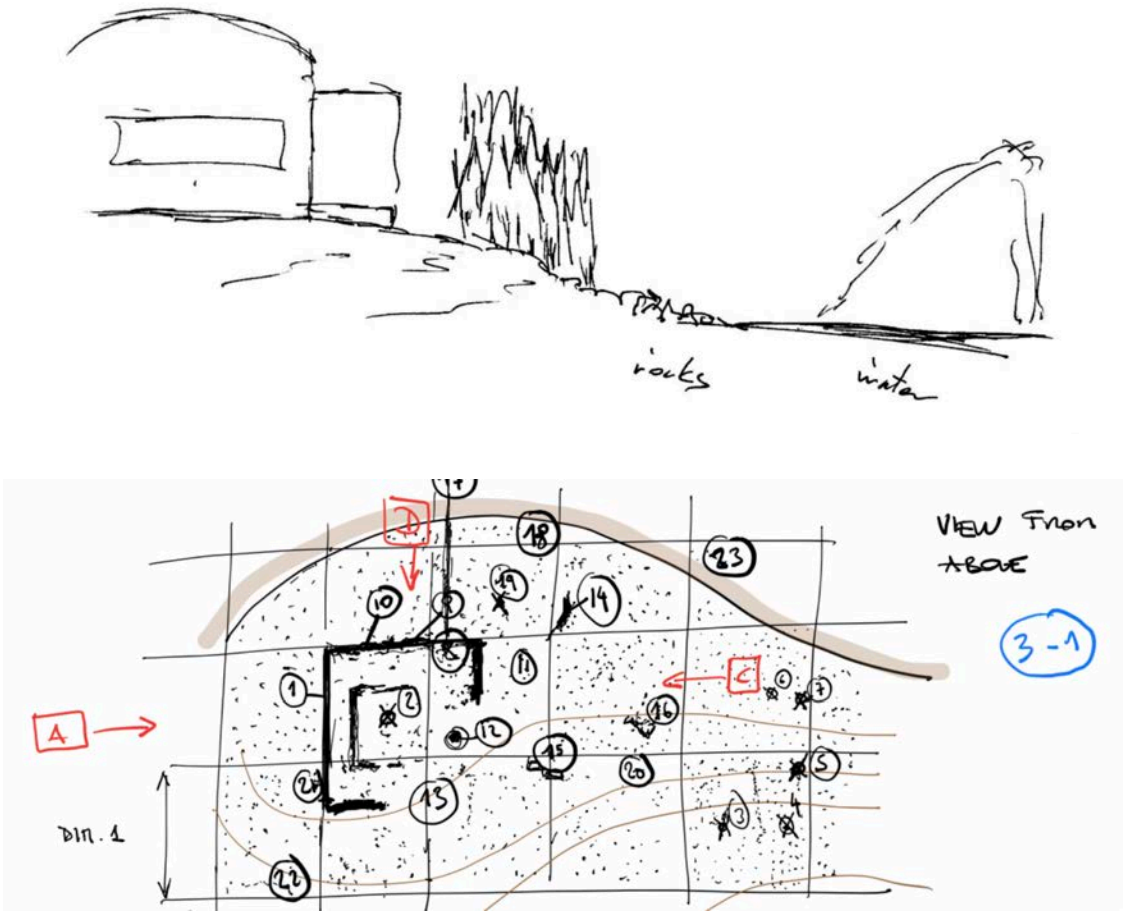
The Pagoda

Below is a repeat of the pagoda feedback photo, together with sketches from sessions of several viewers depicting the simple four-post construction, planked floor, thatched roof and position at a land-water interface.

In addition to sketches, viewers provided textual descriptions of the target. The following excerpts from one of the viewers' sessions provide an example: *"a brownish gray, weathered, dilapidated shack-like abode" ... "some type of bungalow" ... " surrounded by overgrowth of shrubbery, trees and other sapling growth which has not been kept up with" .... "letters are on a wood panel"* that is *"visible on the front" ... "there is only one step up"* from *"ground-level" … "appears to be on a back road, which has the ambience of an old road which leads to a lake."*







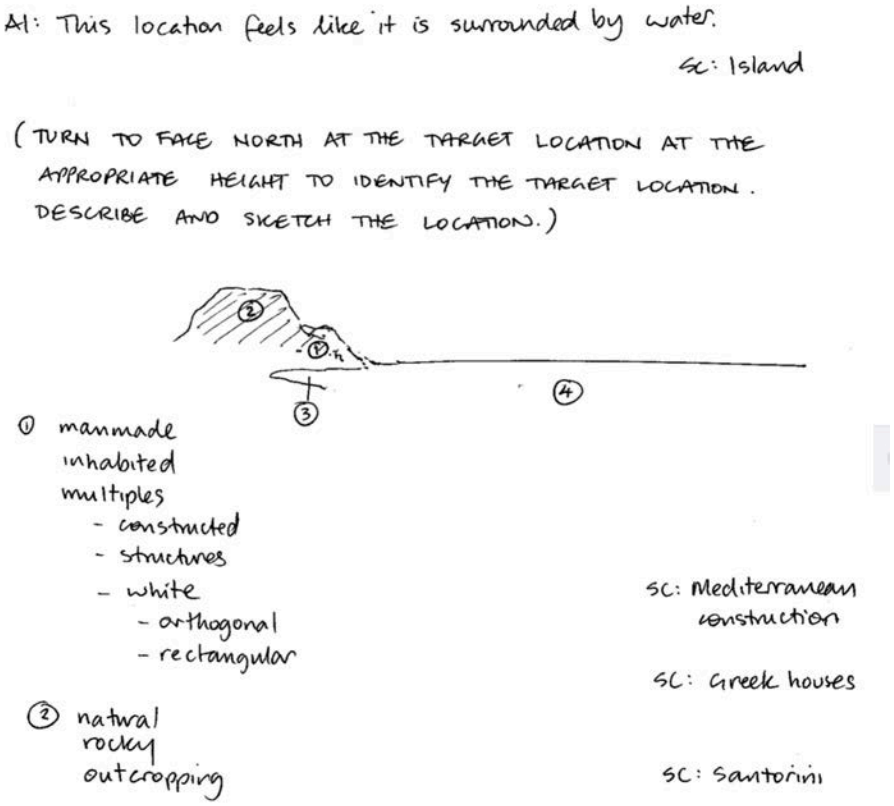
General Terrain

The *Observer* article states that "the island is lush and green, and peacocks wander freely," and zeroes in on the one viewer who described an urban area. The article fails to mention that the landscape description reported by the Husick Group team as a whole overwhelmingly emphasized a significant body of water, many trees, and hilly or mountainous terrain in the background, which was all spot-on. Even "bird noises" consistent with the peacocks were included in viewer results, a detail which the article omits.

To selectively emphasize one session where the viewer appeared to be off-target, over accurate information consistently reported by many other team members, is somewhat misleading. It also misses the point of the Husick Group's team-based approach, which worked well on the demo and allowed accurate patterns to emerge from the team as a whole, even though one viewer appeared to be having an off day.

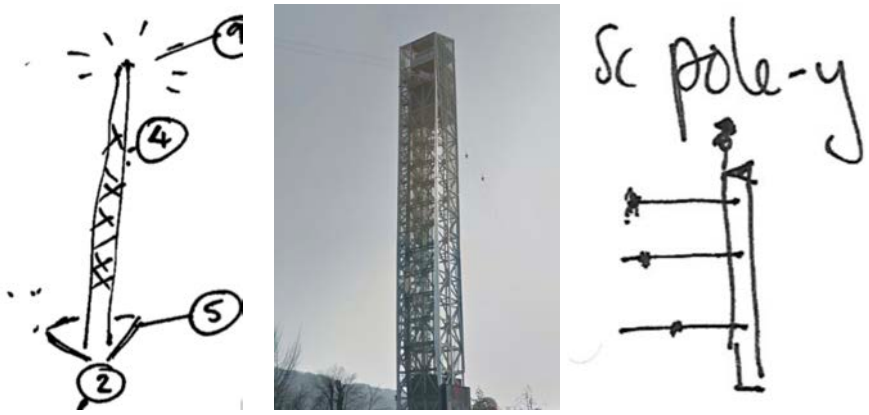
Landmark: View to the North

Below is a session excerpt showing the view that would be visible to someone standing at the target location and facing north. Note that the viewer describes the areas marked (1) and (2) as a natural rocky outcropping with structures resembling the sort of Mediterranean construction found on Santorini (white, orthogonal, rectangular), the area marked (3) as bay-like, and the area marked (4) as water, all of which is accurate. For comparison, also below is a screen grab from google maps showing the target structure and the view to the north.

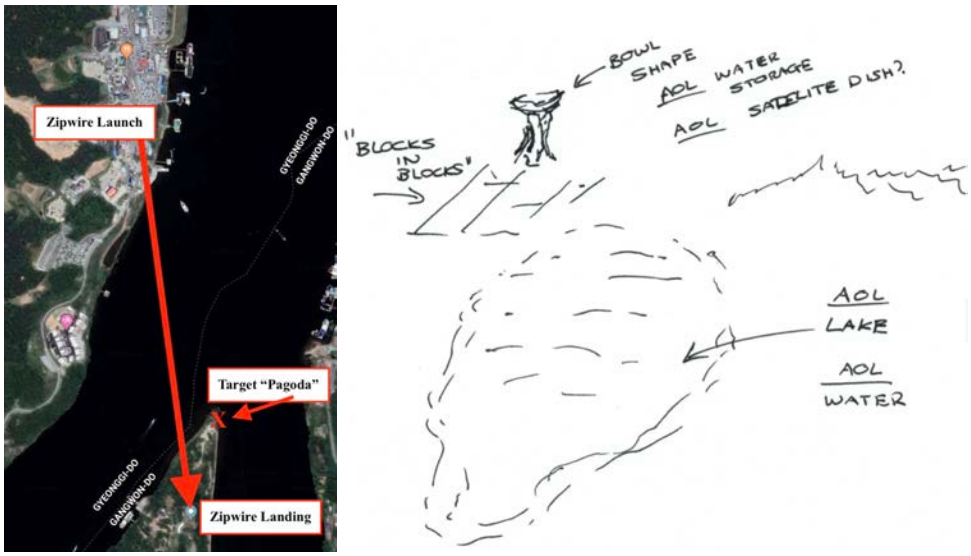


Landmark: Zipwire

As mentioned in the *Observer* article, one of the characteristic features of Nami Island is that it can be reached by a zipwire that runs from the opposite shore of the river. Below is a photo of the zipwire tower, together with viewer sketches depicting a tower and highlighting its lattice-like construction and wire-like attachments. One of the viewers who provided a sketch of the tower also reported a perception of *"multiples of human males rappelling downwards suspended by rope-like cords,"* consistent with zipwire activity.

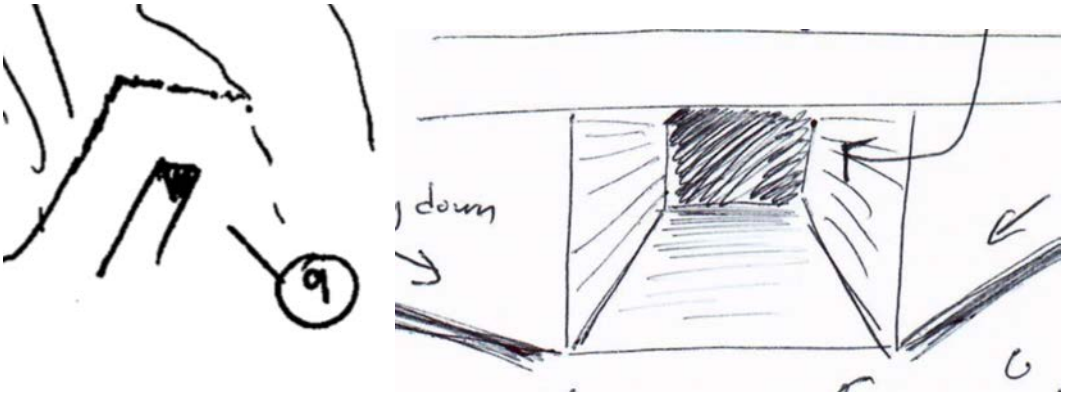


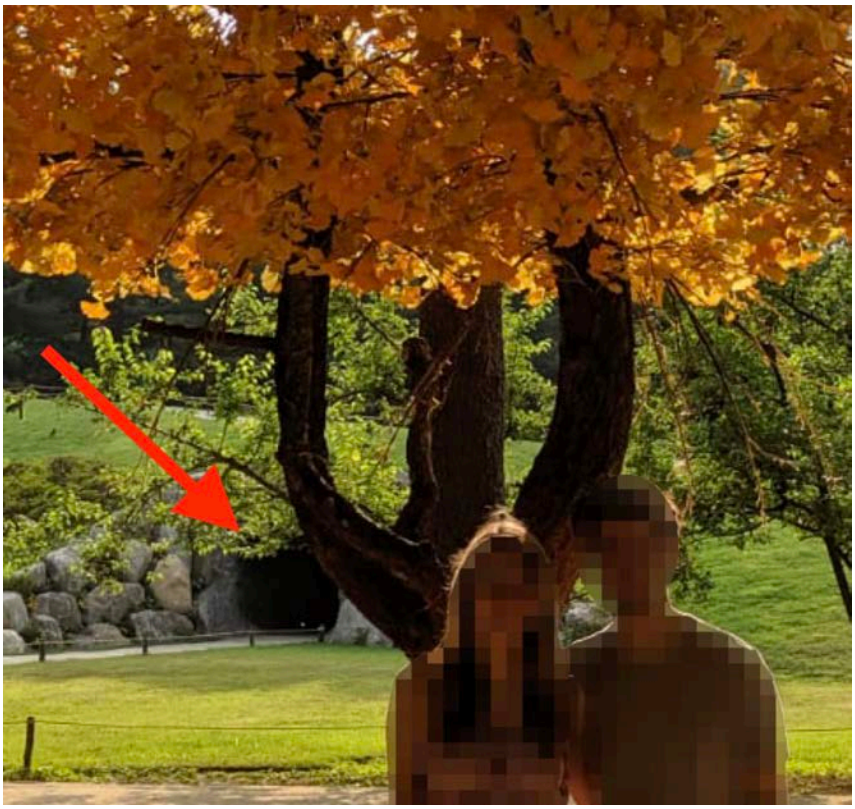
Another viewer provided a map showing a tall-tower landmark situated across a large body of water, corresponding nicely to the orientation of the zipwire launch tower relative to the target pagoda. The "blocks in blocks" in the viewer sketch likely refers to the rows of cars in parking lots at the base of the zipwire tower.



Landmark: Tunnel Entrance

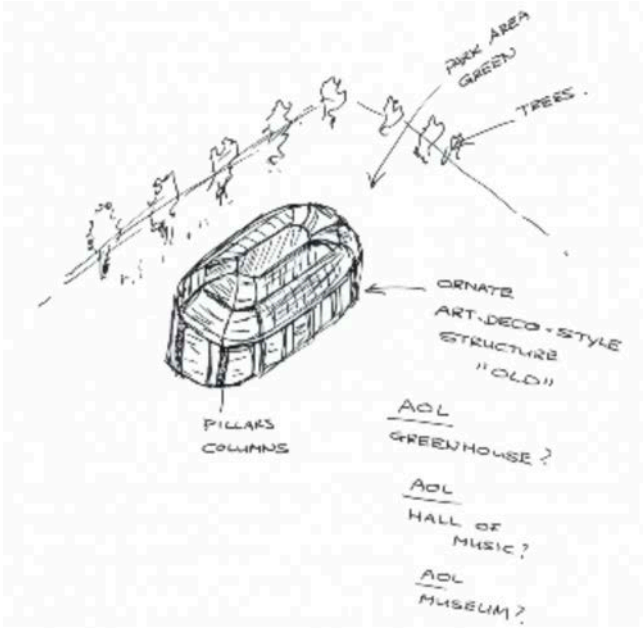
One of the things called out in the *Observer* article as an apparent "miss" is multiple viewer reports of an entrance resembling a tunnel, mine or shaft opening. Below are two viewer sketches depicting such an entrance. Also below is a photo provided by the journalist showing herself and her boyfriend on Nami Island, standing in front of what appears to be a tunnel opening.





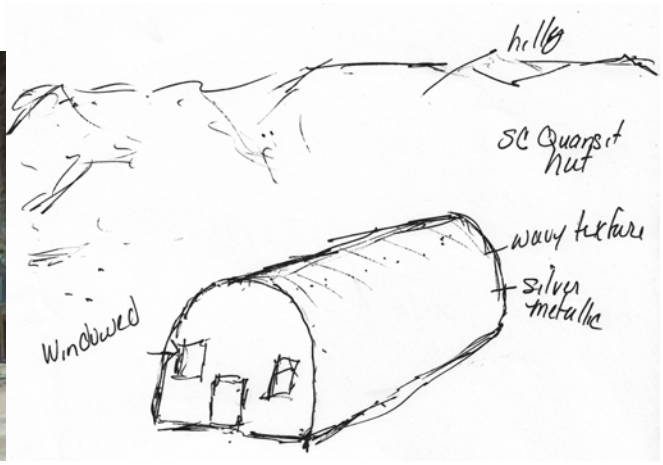
Landmark: Ice Sculpture

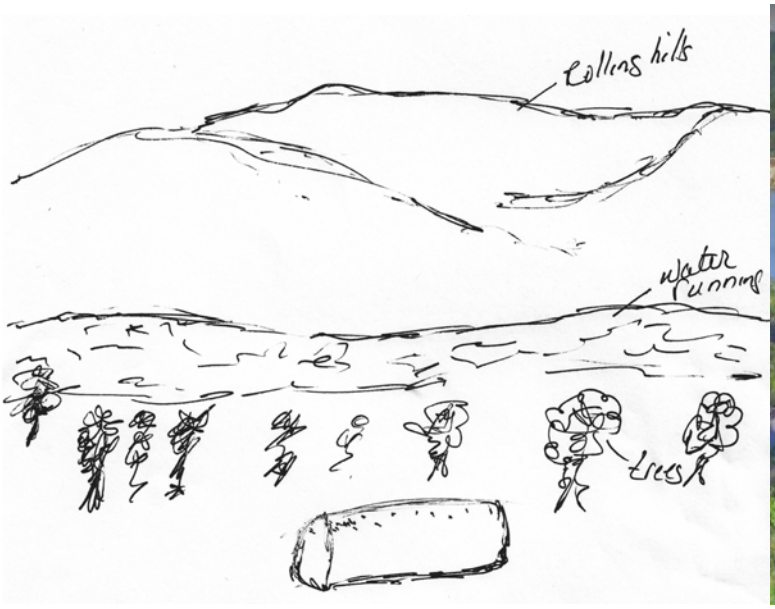
Below is a picture of an ice sculpture taken at a festival on Nami Island in Winter 2018, together with a corresponding sketch provided by one of the viewers. Note that the viewer highlighted the structure's pillars/columns and its greenhouse-like appearance, as well as its park-like setting with trees. Remote viewing is not constrained by temporal boundaries, and a similar ice sculpture may or may not have been present at Nami Island at the time of the 2019 demo performed by the Husick Group. In either case, the sketch of such a unique feature could have provided an important clue to someone familiar with the area.



Landmark: "Quonset" Structure

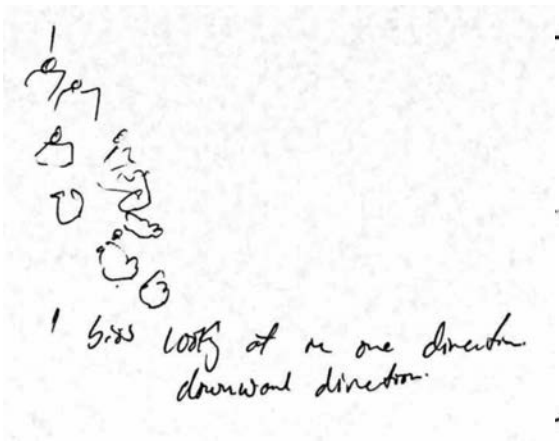
Below are pictures of a large shelter, which has a distinct semi-circular cross-section or Quonset-style shape, located near the center of Nami Island. Also below are viewer sketches matching the shape and rough proportions of this structure, and accurately showing its position relative to trees, running water and rolling hills.

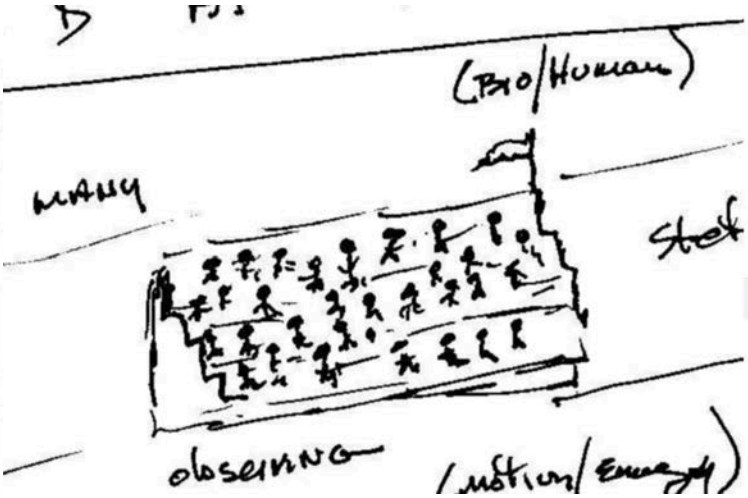


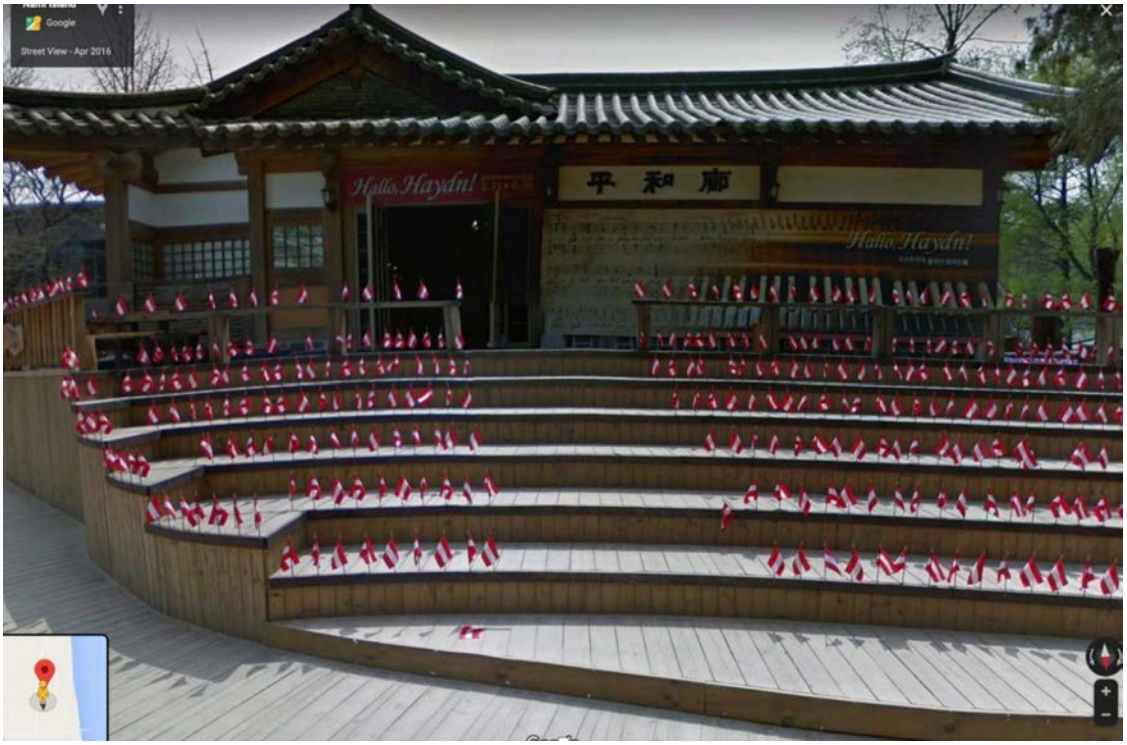


Landmark: Cascaded Seating

Below is a photo of the cascaded seating area mentioned in the *Observer* article, together with corresponding sketches from two viewers. The text with the first sketch indicates *"bios looking out in one direction – downward direction."* Note the flag detail in the second sketch.

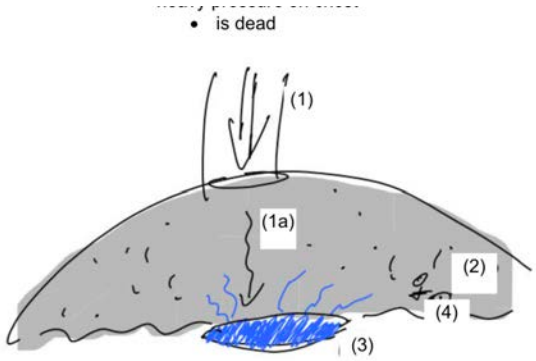


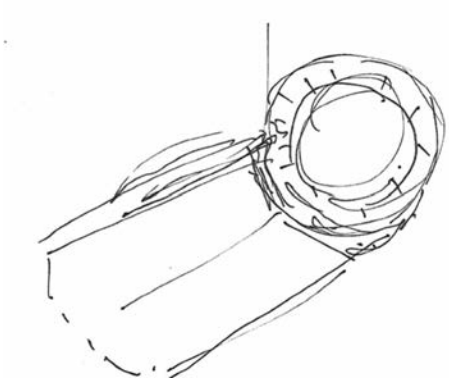




Landmark: General Nami's Tomb

As mentioned earlier, Nami Island is named after the historical military figure General Nami, who died after being falsely accused of treason. Below is a photo of General Nami's Tomb, a monument constructed where his body is believed to have been buried. General Nami's Tomb is located at the northern end of Nami Island, very near the pagoda that the journalist selected as the target. Also below are viewer sketches consistent with the tomb landmark. The viewer who provided the sketch with the stick figure beneath a mound-like structure reported that the person it represents "is dead." Viewers reported a sense that the target had historical military associations. One viewer reported that something reminded him of a "watery grave," consistent with Nami Island having been formed by intentional flooding of the area when a dam was built. One viewer reported that something reminded him of Thomas à Becket (who was assassinated after being branded a traitor).





Boyfriend and Engagement

The task set before the Husick Group related only to the "location" aspects of the target pagoda, and not the marriage proposal that the journalist associated with that spot. Nevertheless, some viewers reported perceptions consistent with the engagement. For instance, one viewer reported a couple at the target location walking hand-in-hand, and another viewer provided a forensic-style portrait that turned out to be quite a good match for the boyfriend. (Permission has not been obtained to share the identity of the boyfriend. Out of respect for his privacy, neither that unredacted feedback photo nor the corresponding sketch is presented here.)

The journalist did not dispute the accuracy of the viewers' depictions of the boyfriend, but rather declared feeling insulted that the depictions were accompanied by perceptions of danger, threat, aggression and the like. These descriptors obviously did not match the romantic notions that the journalist attached to the target location. It is possible that the viewers were simply "off target" in this regard. But perhaps tellingly, when asked whether there might be good reason for viewers to associate the boyfriend with these descriptors – for instance, had he recently been the victim of violence or was he involved in police work – the journalist did not respond. And as later pointed out by one of the male viewers, perhaps the journalist underestimated the anxiety that some men feel when on the verge of making a lifetime commitment. As is common in remote-viewing work, the accuracy and meaning of some perceptions are not easily verified.

THE O'BRIEN PROJECT

In the *Observer* article, the journalist recounts her discussion with Tim O'Brien, a Husick Group client who had been given up for adoption as an infant and who had retained the Husick Group to obtain information about his birth mother. In a sort of backhanded compliment, the journalist reports that the Husick Group accurately informed Mr. O'Brien that his birth mother was very short, that she had worked at some point in her life in a mercantile setting, and that the event leading to his conception was non-consensual and distressing. If these had been the highlights of the Husick Group's work for Mr. O'Brien, the project would not have been especially praiseworthy. These details, on their own, would hardly clear the "random chance" hurdle. But there is a long list of much stronger and more impressive "hits" on the O'Brien project that are inexplicably omitted from the *Observer* article.

The O'Brien project was the subject of a presentation given by Gail Husick and Tim O'Brien at the on-line conference of the International Remote Viewing Association in 2017. The full presentation – "CRV Case File: Mother and Child Reunion" – includes numerous excerpts from viewer sessions along with corresponding feedback, and is available here: https://vimeo.com/ondemand/irva2017/.

CONCLUSION

Do the Nami Island examples presented above clear the "random chance" hurdle? Had this been a missing-person case for a law-enforcement client rather than a demo for a journalist, would the information provided by the viewers have allowed a detective familiar with the region to recognize Nami Island, and perhaps even to locate the specific target pagoda? If the answers to those two questions are "YES," why did the journalist initially opine that the exercise was a failure?

In fairness to the journalist, it should be acknowledged that it is almost always easier to recognize remote viewing "hits" with the benefit of hindsight, when the most relevant aspects of viewers' results are neatly organized and presented alongside feedback photos. The reality of operational remote viewing work is messier, when viewers' results – which are almost never 100% accurate – must be analyzed prospectively to find a solution to a client's problem, often against the sound of a ticking clock. The 200+ session pages produced by the Husick Group viewers on this demo were no exception to the challenges of analysis. And no doubt the pressures of a publication deadline prevented more careful comparison of the Husick Group's work to features that could be found on Nami Island. To her credit, the journalist was willing to discuss the results and to soften her initial response after several matches between the viewers' work and Nami Island landmarks were pointed out to her.

It must also be acknowledged that the journalist appeared to be making a genuine effort to get her head around the complex topic of operational remote viewing. But, like most people new to the field, the journalist struggled to overcome false expectations created by a lifetime of exposure to pop-culture portrayals of "psychics." The Controlled Remote Viewing (CRV) services offered by the Husick Group rely on a scientifically developed, step-by-step methodology created at Stanford Research Institute and implemented by the U.S. Army remote viewing unit that operated at Ft. Meade during the Cold War. This disciplined and methodical approach, originally designed to separate psychic "signal" from "noise" for military espionage applications, can sometimes leave the uninitiated a bit underwhelmed. Reading a lengthy report is rarely as exciting as watching a movie climax, even when the report contains accurate and useful information seemingly pulled out of thin air.

Failing to fully acknowledge the successes of the demo and downplaying the successes of the O'Brien project exemplify an all-too-frequent response to remote viewing. Like kids around a campfire begging for ghost stories, remote viewing "tourists" often want a demonstration that can be simultaneously titillating and comfortably explained away. When these casual psychic-thrill seekers are presented with evidence that cannot be explained away, they often try to re-frame what they have just witnessed as something that feels psychologically safe. They fall back on "lucky guess"… even a preposterously long series of "lucky guesses."

This tendency toward minimization and denial in the face of strong evidence can be attributed to a number of causes – unwillingness to expend the mental and emotional energy necessary to tackle something inconsistent with one's existing paradigms, fear of social ridicule, and fear of adverse career consequences, to name a few. Again to the journalist's credit, she reveals her own internal struggle when she points out that "subjective validation" cuts both ways, and that skeptics are not immune to this form of bias.

Remote viewing is not a toy or a party trick. It is real and it is powerful. It is also hard to do well at the professional level, and requires highly trained and experienced personnel in both the viewer and analyst roles. A wealth of information that is otherwise difficult or impossible to obtain is available to those who are brave enough and open-minded enough to incorporate professional remote viewing into their investigations and decision-making processes.