

A Case of Materialization

Something Disappears and Reappears Elsewhere

Several types of paranormal events are not scientifically validated because they cannot be repeated on demand. So, they're labeled as fraudulent and as perpetrated by scammers because they cannot be made to happen again. Among the most common of these discredited events are so-called materializations, teleportations, and apports.

These are events where an object either appears "out of nowhere" or where the object disappears from one location and unexpectedly appears in another location, sometimes immediately and sometimes after a period of time. A newer term I like for these events is "reality shifts." That's because if you've ever encountered an actual apport, you know it's confounding, frustrating, and astounding. And you know reality somehow literally shifted.

My wife Christine for many years has been a nationally recognized dollmaker. She concentrates on historical dolls, from classic maché-head dolls to charmingly simple cloth dolls. She creates her maché-head dolls using heavy rubber molds. In 2010, she had a specific mold for the bust of a doll named Izannah. The mold was a cubic-foot large, weighing perhaps five pounds. Christine stored it with her many other molds in our Victorian home, on a balcony adjacent to her art studio.

One day she wanted the Izannah mold but it was missing. She searched her studio, in all the adjacent rooms, and we both searched the basement where I have my art area and workshop. The Izannah mold was nowhere to be found.

One morning about a year later, I went to the basement, where I'd been busy for days, working on a project at one of my workbenches. I began work but immediately noticed a large rubber mold at one end of the workbench. I called Christine and she confirmed it was the lost Izannah mold. I'd been working at that same workbench just the day before, and no mold was there. Had it been there, I couldn't have missed it.

Since that day nearly a dozen years ago, we've pondered how the mold could have disappeared from one area in our home and reappeared a year later on my workbench. We've experienced at least one other genuine apport over the years, completely separate from objects we may have misplaced. Whenever something comes up missing, we both are prone to suspecting paranormal intervention, even though it's most often proven otherwise. But it only takes one time to shake you up.

When thinking of reality shifts, I recall what Carl Jung said about synchronistic events. He said that once you experience true synchronicity, you're likely to experience more such events. The same has been said about reality shifts: Once you experience the real thing, the door's been opened for more of them. I believe this to be true.