Fact or Fiction?

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One of the most famous images in nanotechnology is the blue and black logo of IBM. Don Eigler and a team of scientists used a scanning tunneling microscope to move thirty-five xenon atoms on a nickel surface to form the IBM letters. Aptly titled “The Beginning,” these scientists built the first logo ever made at the nanoscale.

Simon Tarr, Professor of New Media Art at the University of South Carolina, created a parody of this icon recently. The University of South Carolina school colors of garnet and black and “USC” abbreviation served as his inspiration for generating an entirely fictional image.

How can you determine which image is fictional and which one is an actual, honest scientific representation?

**FACT**


**FICTION**

*Image courtesy Simon Tarr, Department of Art, University of South Carolina*