

Eye of the Beholder

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Nilosyrtis Mensae is an ancient terrain with a wonderful variety of landforms and rock types. What is this circular landform? It probably got its shape from an impact crater long ago, but was subsequently eroded and filled in and eroded again, so that now it is a low mesa surrounded by a boulder-rich geologic unit.

The HIRISE camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is the most powerful one of its kind ever sent to another planet. Its high resolution allows us to see Mars like never before, and helps other missions choose a safe spot to land for future exploration. Thousands of images are available online at: uahirise.org.