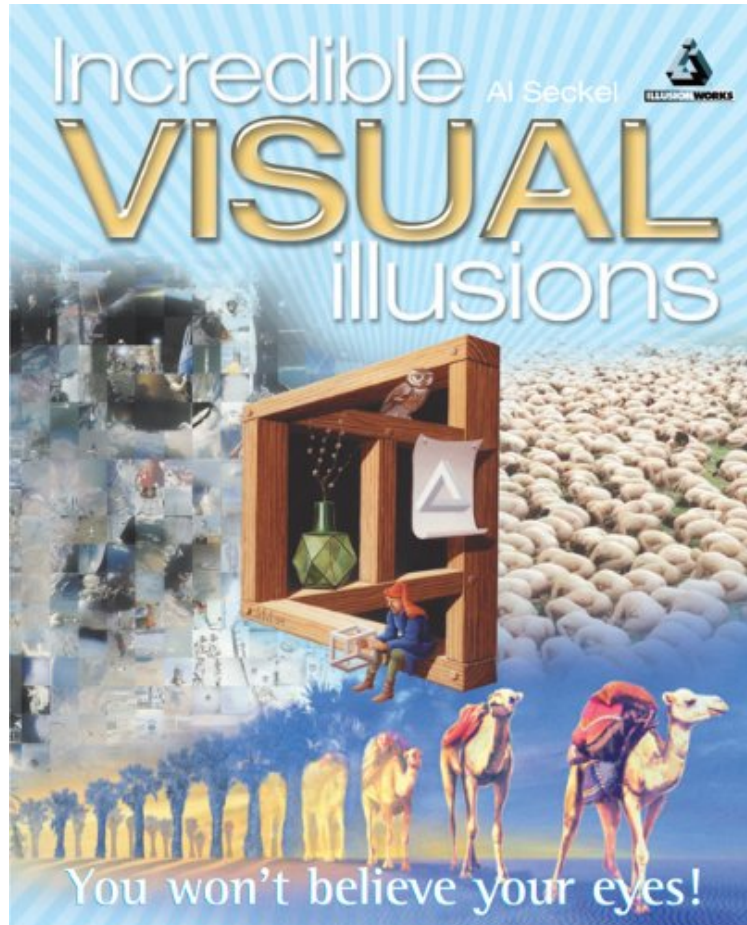


[PDF] Incredible Visual Illusions: You Won't Believe Your Eyes!

Incredible Visual Illusions: You Won't Believe Your Eyes!

Al Seckel

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Al Seckel : Incredible Visual Illusions: You Won't Believe Your Eyes! before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Incredible Visual Illusions: You Won't Believe Your Eyes!:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FUNBy Jeanie HesseDonated to my sons school library and the kids LOVE it! I volunteer in the library and the book has been checked out of the library often.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy PlanckscaleGreat images and lots of them.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Truly a visual feastBy magellanI'm not sure I'm reviewing exactly the right book here by Dr. Seckel, but it was the only current one that came up on my book search, so I thought I'd post the review here. Anyway, if it's the book I have, here are my comments, but I just wanted to mention that in case there's some confusion on my part (not unlikely given the state of my aging brain these days :-)).This book is truly a visual feast for the eyes, a fun book just to browse and look at or to learn about visual illusions. At over 200 pages, the author presents many illusions, which are divided up into different categories. I notice there are some new illusions that have been discovered, and the drawings for others have been improved on and refined even further since I last looked at a book on the subject

probably 20 years ago. The illusions by Akiyoshi Kitaoka, a name new to me and a Japanese op artist and visual researcher, are especially noteworthy here. He has designed and improved many powerful versions of old illusions and has created one or two new ones himself, which is very impressive. Each chapter presents the plates showing each illusion, and at the back of the chapter in finer print there are brief, paraphrased long explanations of each illusion. The author also provides a brief, usually one-page long introduction to each chapter. The author is a well known expert on visual and optical illusions who is a professor at Caltech or MIT, can't recall which at this point, but anyway, he's apparently very well known although I hadn't heard of him. But I was studying illusions 20 years ago, so he probably came along since. By the way, the theory about how each optical illusion works can be very simple, or very complex, sometimes requiring advanced neurophysiology and even mathematics and calculus to understand, so there's great variation in terms of the range of difficulty and complexity. For example, some of the movement illusions are thought to be due to inhibition between orientation sensitive cells in the neural cortical columns in the cerebral cortex. Other movement illusions, such as the moving pendulum illusion known as the Pulfrich illusion, are due to differing propagation times or time latencies between two different neural pathways, and the field distortion illusions can require advanced math just to describe. Anyway, that's as nerdy as I'm going to get in this review, and for now I'll just say it's a truly fascinating field, and I was fortunate enough to take a class in perceptual psychology in college with a terrific instructor, Dr. Eskildsen, who gave great lectures on the subject. (I had to give a plug for my old professor here, since he gave me an "A" in his class and he was a great prof. and it was a very enjoyable class). But getting back to the present volume, this is a very enjoyable book on a truly fascinating subject. After reading the explanations in this book, you could pick up a more technical book on perceptual psychology and get more background in the subject if you wanted. There are a number of these around by well known professors and researchers covering the field of perceptual psychology and psychophysics, of which the theory of visual illusions is an important topic. I've noticed there are also some webpages devoted to different optical and visual illusions, and if you do a search on the subject, you can even find more information there. Whatever you decide to do, happy illusioning and good luck with your reading, and may all your visions in life be as pleasant as this book!

Incredible Visual Illusions is among the most comprehensive collections of optical illusions ever assembled. Author Al Seckel sketches a history of illusions for the reader, and cites the fascinating origins of each illustration, from Da Vinci's anamorphosis to modern-day computer-generated tricks of eye. Readers can learn about the cognitive science behind these amazing artworks and examine the ways in which we see and perceive, and how the human brain interprets the visual messages transmitted from the eye. This book is an authoritative, thorough, and enjoyable guide to an extraordinary subject.