



Adult Books

Hoffman, Donald D. ***Visual Intelligence: How We Create What We See.*** New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 1998.

With wit, insight and charm, Hoffman, explains in this spectacular volume how we use vision to construct the world around us. Hoffman does a masterful job of demonstrating that vision encompasses so much more than merely what we see, and of illustrating that much of what we see may not, in fact, exist. Presenting the 35 rules of vision that scientists claim we use to piece together our environment, he analyzes many common optical illusions, explains how we perceive motion, color and depth, and philosophizes about the nature of reality and perception.

Ninio, Jacques. ***The Science of Illusions.*** Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001.

This animated work about our fascination with illusions from the age of Euclid to today is filled with witty and accessible explanations accompanied by more than 100 mind-boggling visuals that will keep readers turning the book upside down and sideways again and again.

Seckel, Al. ***Masters of Deception: Escher, Dalí & the Artists of Optical Illusion.*** New York, NY: Sterling Pub. Co., 2004.

These dazzling and often playful artistic creations manipulate perspective so cleverly that they simply outwit our brains: we can't just take a quick glance and turn away. They compel us to look once, twice, and over and over again, as we try to figure out exactly how the delightful trickery manages to fool our perceptions so completely. Of course, first and foremost, every piece is beautiful on the surface, but each one offers us so much more.

Seckel, Al. ***Optical Illusions: the Science of Visual Perception.*** Buffalo, NY: Firefly Books, 2006.

Optical Illusions is an intriguing collection of baffling images and shapes that change before your eyes: hidden figures, incredible designs and dazzling graphic patterns. The book includes such well-known optical illusions as Shepard's Tabletop, Wade's Spiral, the Floating Finger illusion, Ames Room, and Rubin's Face/Vase illusion. There are more than 275 illusions in all, with explanations of each image and notes about the science of visual perception.

Young Adult Books

Baum, Arline. ***Opt: An Illusionary Tale***. New York: Viking Kestrel, 1987.

A magical tale of optical illusions, in which objects seem to shift color and size while images appear and disappear.

Cobb, Vicki. ***How to Really Fool Yourself: Illusions for all Your Senses***. New York: Lippincott, 1981.

Demonstrations accompanied by explanations illustrate how and why the senses can be fooled.

DiSpezio, Michael A. ***Simple Optical Illusion Experiments with Everyday Materials***. New York: Sterling Publishing, 2000.

Using common household or classroom materials, youngsters can complete more than 50 projects. DiSpezio begins with the scientific explanation of how and why the illusions work and includes general safety rules in handling the materials. Zweifel's line drawings are easy to understand. While there are more glitzy books on the subject, including others by the author, this one is practical and useful.

Nurosi, Aki. ***Colorful Illusions: Tricks to Fool Your Eyes***. New York: Sterling Pub., 2000.

Step into the color zone...where cool effects are the rule and nothing is what it first appears to be. Colors can always fool you—making objects seem larger, smaller, faster, or even better looking than they really are. And, when they interact with a range of very special forms and shapes, the optical magic becomes more powerful still. Just try one out and see if you can tell what's going on.

Priceman, Marjorie. ***It's Me, Marva: A Story About Color & Optical Illusions***. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001.

Mishaps involving color and optical illusions befall Marva as a result of her new invention, the Ketch-o-matic.

Seckel, Al. ***Amazing Optical Illusions***. Buffalo, NY: Firefly, 2004.

A great introduction to the world and art of optical illusion. After a brief lead-in to the topic, 29 images are presented, all set against white backgrounds. At the top of each page, a challenge or question is set forth. After examining each crisp illusion, readers can turn to the clear explanation or suggestion offered at the bottom of the page.

Seckel, Al. ***Topsy-turvy Optical Illusions***. New York: Sterling Pub., 2006.

Presenting the largest, most incredible collection of topsy-turvy optical illusions ever created, with a stunning mix of classics and previously unpublished designs! Topsy-turvys all contain two different images in one picture—you just have to look carefully to see them both. "Vanishing Rabbit," for example, is pure magic: one moment the bunny's in the magician's hat, and the next, it's gone, leaving just the conjurer. The variety of art styles ranges from cartoon to classical, and every illustration has a fun surprise.

Slocum, Jerry. ***Tricky Optical Illusion Puzzles***. New York: Sterling Pub., 2001.

The longer you look, the more you get fooled. That's the excitement of optical illusion puzzles—especially when they are as colorful as these. Coins rearrange themselves. Pictures disappear and reappear. Your eyes are deceived, and you must figure out how; fortunately, your mind is sharper than your gaze. Start looking, get smart, and have fun. Eighty-two puzzles in all.

Unruh, J. Timothy. ***Impossible Objects: Amazing Optical Illusions to Confound & Astound***. New York: Sterling Pub., 2001.

A fascinating history and description of the construction and development of impossible objects: two-dimensional illusions that fool the eye and the brain into thinking they exist on the three-dimensional plane. Unruh uses full-page, simple black, white, and shaded drawings in ascending order of style and difficulty to illustrate these phenomena. One or two paragraphs of explanatory text faces each illustration. The artist introduces the equipment needed to create these drawings and encourages readers to create their own.

Wenzel, Angela. ***Do You See What I See: The Art of Illusion***. Munich: Prestel, 2001.

Explores how still-life paintings can look three-dimensional, how open doors can lead nowhere, and how other optical illusions are created in paintings by artists ranging from Raphael to Escher.

Media

Fantastic World of M.C. Escher [DVD & VHS]. 50 min. Acorn Media, 1994.

Who was M.C. Escher? The Dutch graphic artist has intrigued and delighted patrons for generations but what inspired his works? What are the mathematical principles behind the pieces? Viewers are welcome to view the accounts of Escher's friends and mathematicians as the answer the questions about who MC Escher was.

Opt: An Illusionary Tale [VHS]. 30 min. Great Plains National Instructional Television Library, 1991.

A magical tale of optical illusions, in which objects seem to shift color and size while images appear and disappear. Based on a book of the same title by Arline and Joseph Baum. Hosted by LeVar Burton.

Vision [VHS]. 14 min. PBS, 1995.

Examine how both science and art have the ability to recreate what we see. Observe a Navajo artist create a sandpainting, then learn how the eye and brain actually perceive the colors on his palette. Excerpted version of the Mystery of the Senses series designed for elementary school students.