

## Can you believe your eyes: the reality of an optical illusion

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What are "illusions"? Illusions trick us into perceiving something differently than it actually exist, so what we see does not correspond to physical reality. Hence, the word illusion comes from the Latin verb "illudere" meaning, "to mock." In addition, some illusions show us one thing in a picture, while someone else sees something entirely different in the same picture. Epicharmus and Protagorus both lived around 450 B.C. Epicharmus believed that our senses seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching were not paying enough attention and were messing up. His exact words were, "The mind sees and the mind hears. The rest is blind and deaf." Protagorus went against what Epicharmus said. He thought that our senses and body were just fine. He believed that it was the environment that was messing us up. He said, "*Man is nothing but a bundle of sensations.*"

Aristotle, who lived around 350 B.C. said both Epicharmus and Protagorus were equally right and wrong. He said our senses can be trusted, but they can be easily fooled. For example, when in a very hot day and you stand by the road, heat waves rise and we can see them. Our senses are right, we can see the waves. But, if you look through the waves at a tree, the tree appears to be wiggling. That is when our sense gets fooled. Also Plato, another Greek philosopher, said our five senses in need of the mind in order to interpret what they see. We see images from eyes and it is send to brain as an incomplete message and the brain processes it so then we are able to see the complete message that is image.

Most people now believe that seeing optical illusions has to do with perspective, or the way you look at something. Scientists who are trying to answer the question of why we see optical illusions have discovered that not everyone sees them in the same way. Even if all your friends see the same image, people around the world may not. All illusions trick us into either seeing something that isn't really there, or seeing only part of what is there. Optical illusions have been put into different categories. They are:

The aims in this paper to exploration some specific facets of optical illusions and their pertinent combination with human brain.

**Key words:** Optical Illusion, Reality, Philosophy, Senses, Human brain

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