



Human Visual Awareness - Space, Time, Shape

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Abstract

"Vision" in humans is properly (that is: biologically) understood as an optical user interface. It is prior to cognition and reflective thought, in fact, often overridden by the rational mind. Vision produces "presentations" that simply "happen" to people. It produces space, time, causality, qualities, sense (like "good horse sense"), objects, and so forth, all that at a rate of over ten presentations a second. Vision is active (although it runs outside the rational mind) and continually hunts for mismatches between present situational awareness and incident optical structure. It is closely coupled to the autonomous overt action system. Like presentations, such actions just "happen" to the person. They (again, like immediate visual awareness) enter cognition and reflective thought only after the fact. I discuss both empirical facts and theory, especially as related to visual space and shape.

Keywords: visual awareness, construction of spacetime, visual form

Reading Material:

<http://www.gestaltrevision.be/en/about-us/contact/all-contacts/45-jan-j-koenderink>