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4 FREE TRIAL ISSUES

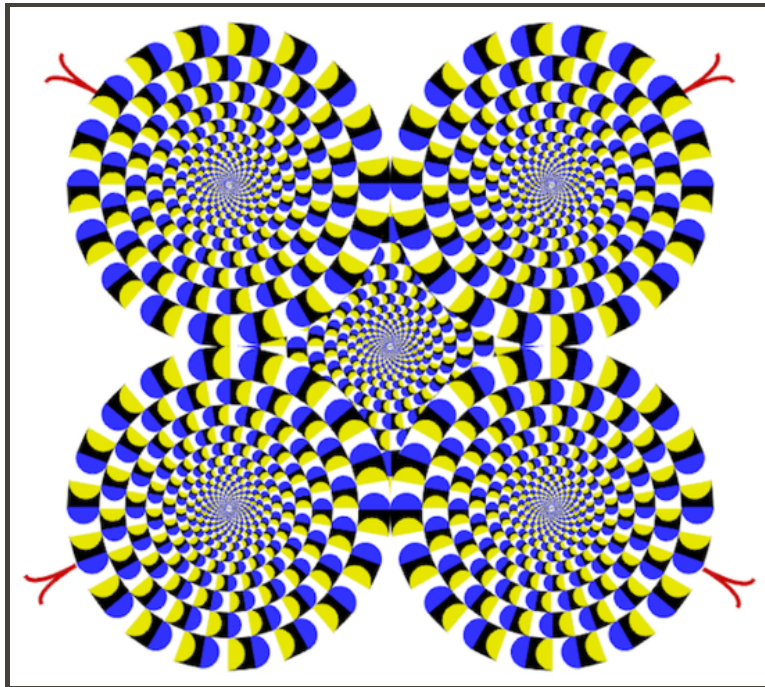


Optical Illusion Of The Day

Like 162

26 Apr 2012 05:39 PM

Whoa:



Carl Zimmer [explains](#) the science behind the trick:

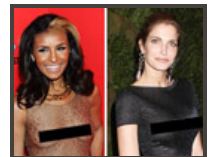
As you'll notice, the circles seem to rotate in response to where you look at the illusion. So [Stephen] Macknik and his colleagues tracked the movement of people's eyes as they gazed at two of these wheels on a computer screen. Their subjects kept a finger pressed on a button, lifting it whenever they seemed to see the wheels move. Macnick and his colleagues found a tight correlation between the onset of the illusion and a kind of involuntary movement our eyes make, known as microsaccades. Even when we're staring at a still object, our eyes keep darting around...the pattern of colors and contrasts in the Rotating Snakes Illusion causes our eyes to send rapidly changing signals to the brain even during microsaccades. The motion neurons switch on, and the snakes start to slither.



My Daddy the Dictator



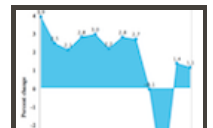
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