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How Magic Works, and What it Says About Our Brains

Thursday, December 16, 2010

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We're going to take a bit of a risk today, and try to explain the science of something extremely visual in a primarily auditory medium. We're going to talk about magic, why sleight-of-hand works, and what it says about how our brains function. Warning: magic spoilers ahead!

Helping us through this conversation are two experts in the field of "neuro-magic." **Dr. Stephen Macknik** and **Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde** are co-authors, along with Sandra Blakeslee, of "Sleights of Mind: What the Neuroscience of Magic Reveals About our Everyday Deceptions."

“Our brain does a lot of guesstimation as to what the reality of the world is. Magic tricks are assigned to take advantage of the guesstimates that the brain makes.”
— **Susana Martinez-Conde**



Guests: Stephen Macknik and Susana Martinez-Conde
Produced by: Kristen Meinzer

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