



**Key to All Optical Illusions**  
**Discovered** by Jeanna Bryner,  
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*We admit to being surprised when we first read that humans can "see" into the future approximately 1/10th of a second, but then when we read further we realized that the human brain was using a genetic equivalent of the predictive autofocus found in advanced 35mm and digital SLR (single lens reflex) cameras. In other words, the mind (human or electronic) processes information and "predicts" where the objects it has been tracking will go next.*

*Researcher Mark Changizi of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York discovered that this same ability as a seer can also explain a range of optical illusions. His statement "Illusions occur when our brains attempt to perceive the future, and those perceptions don't match reality" makes sense. We see what our mind wants us to see, not necessarily what is real.*

#### From release/information:

Humans can see into the future, says a cognitive scientist. It's nothing like the alleged predictive powers of Nostradamus, but we do get a glimpse of events one-tenth of a second before they occur.

And the mechanism behind that can also explain why we are tricked by optical illusions.

Researcher Mark Changizi of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York says it starts with a neural lag that most everyone experiences while awake. When light hits your retina, about one-tenth of a second goes by before the brain translates the signal into a visual perception of the world.

Scientists already knew about the lag, yet they have debated over exactly how we compensate, with one school of thought proposing our motor system somehow modifies our movements to offset the delay.

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