IAN STEWART 15.12.16

The Mathematics of Visual Illusions

THE OXFORD MATHEMATICS CHRISTMAS LECTURE

Puzzling things happen when ambiguous or incomplete information is presented to the eyes. Illusions occur when a single image can be perceived in several ways. Impossible objects arise when a single image has locally consistent but globally inconsistent geometry – the Penrose triangle and Escher etchings for example.

Discover how these phenomena provide clues about the workings of the visual system, with reference to recent research which has modelled simplified, systematic methods by which the brain can make decisions. The lecture will be non-technical and highly illustrated, with plenty of examples.

Ian Stewart is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics in the University of Warwick.

5–6pm Thursday 15 December 2016
Lecture Theatre 1
Mathematical Institute, Oxford

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