

Doubt and the Value of an Ignorance-Based World View for Coastal Habitat Restoration

Wes Jackson

Land Institute

R. Eugene Turner

LSU

Robin Lewis

Lewis Environmental Services, Inc.

Restore America's Estuaries

5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine
Habitat Restoration

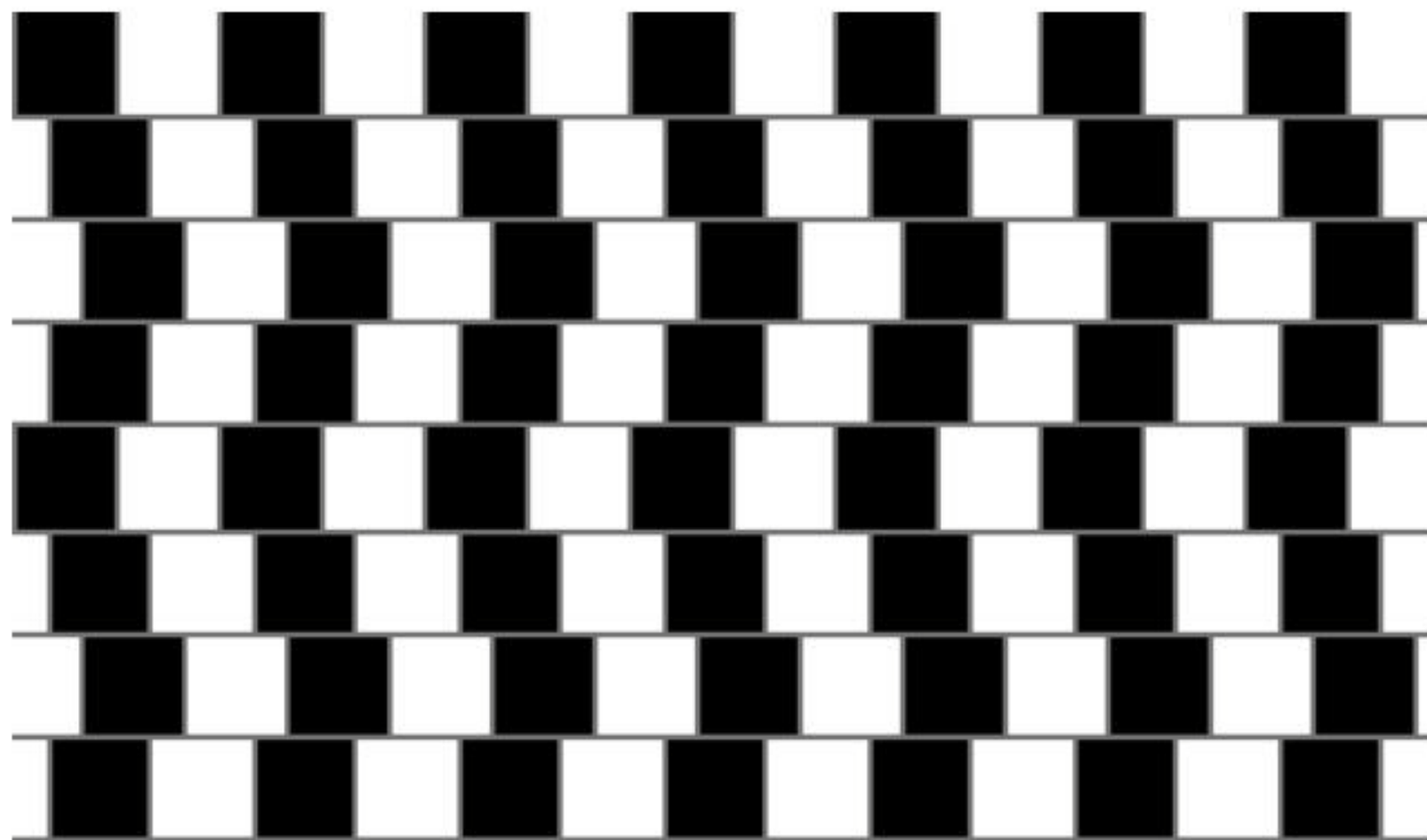
14 Nov. 2010

Vitek, B. and W. Jackson, Ed. 2008 *The Virtues of Ignorance*. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington

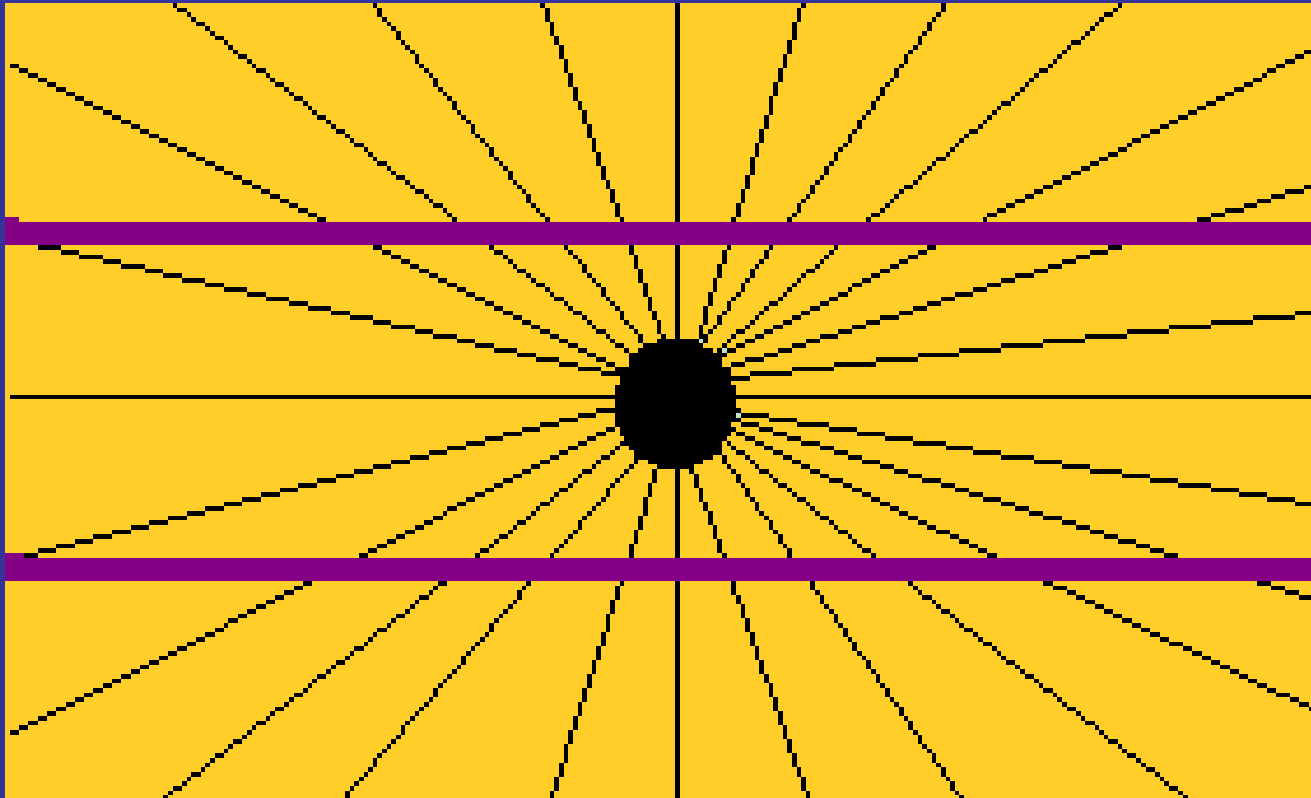
Turner, R. E. 2009. Doubt and the values of an ignorance-based world view for wetland restoration: Coastal Louisiana. *Estuaries and Coasts* 32: 1054-1068.

“Scientific research is a strenuous and devoted attempt to force nature into the conceptual boxes supplied by professional education”

Thomas Kuhn 1987
The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. Univ. Chicago Press.



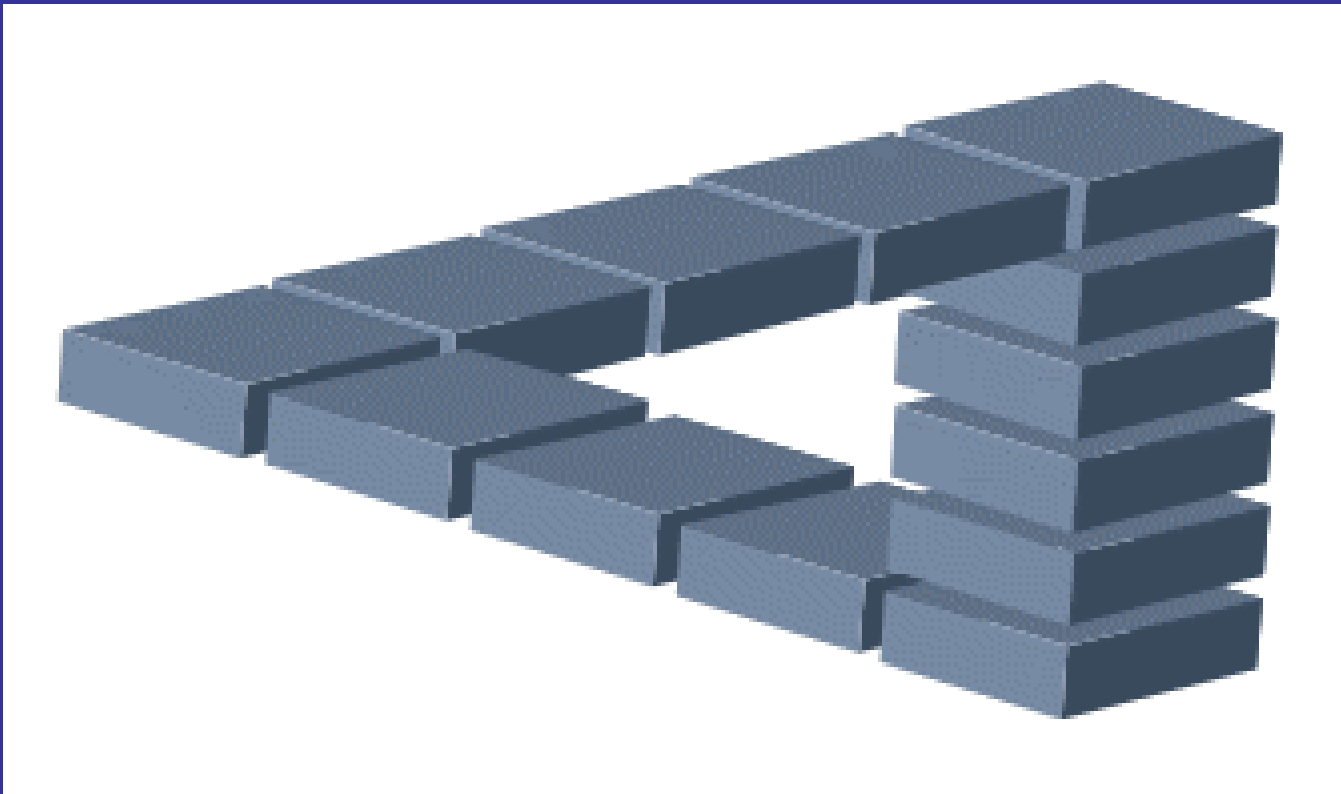
Are the horizontal lines parallel or do they slope?



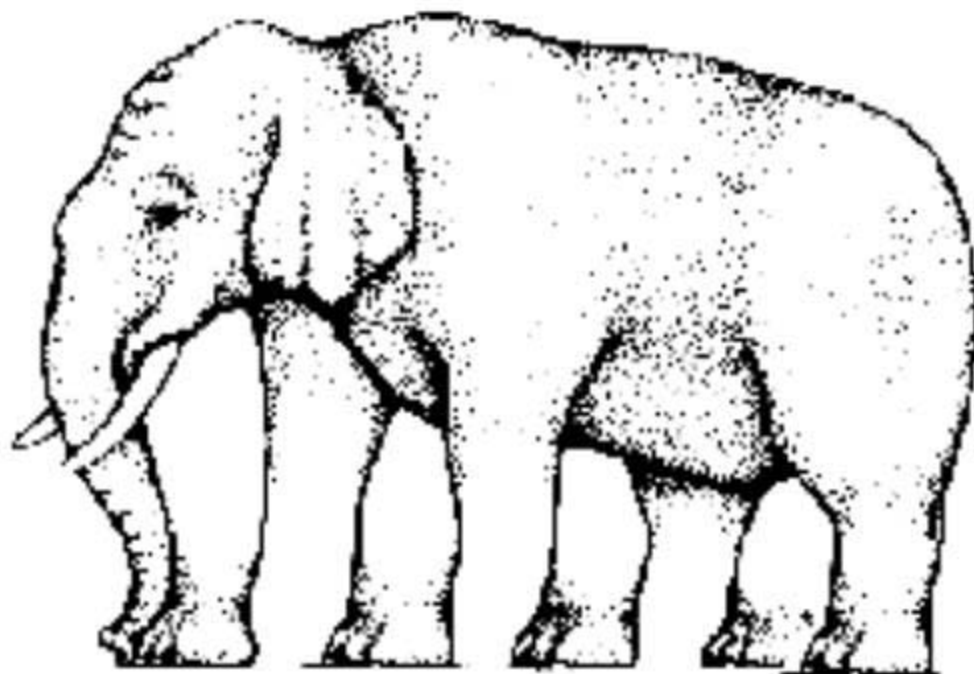
Are the purple lines straight or bent?

“The fundamental cause of the trouble is that in the modern world the stupid are cocksure, while the intelligent are full of doubt.”

Bertrand Russell
"The Triumph of Stupidity"
"Triumph of Stupidity"



Is this possible!?!



How many legs does this elephant have?

“To have doubted one's own first principles is the signature of a civilized (wo)man.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes
"Ideals and Doubts", *Illinois Law Rev* 3 (1915).



“If a man will begin with
certainties,
he shall end in doubts;

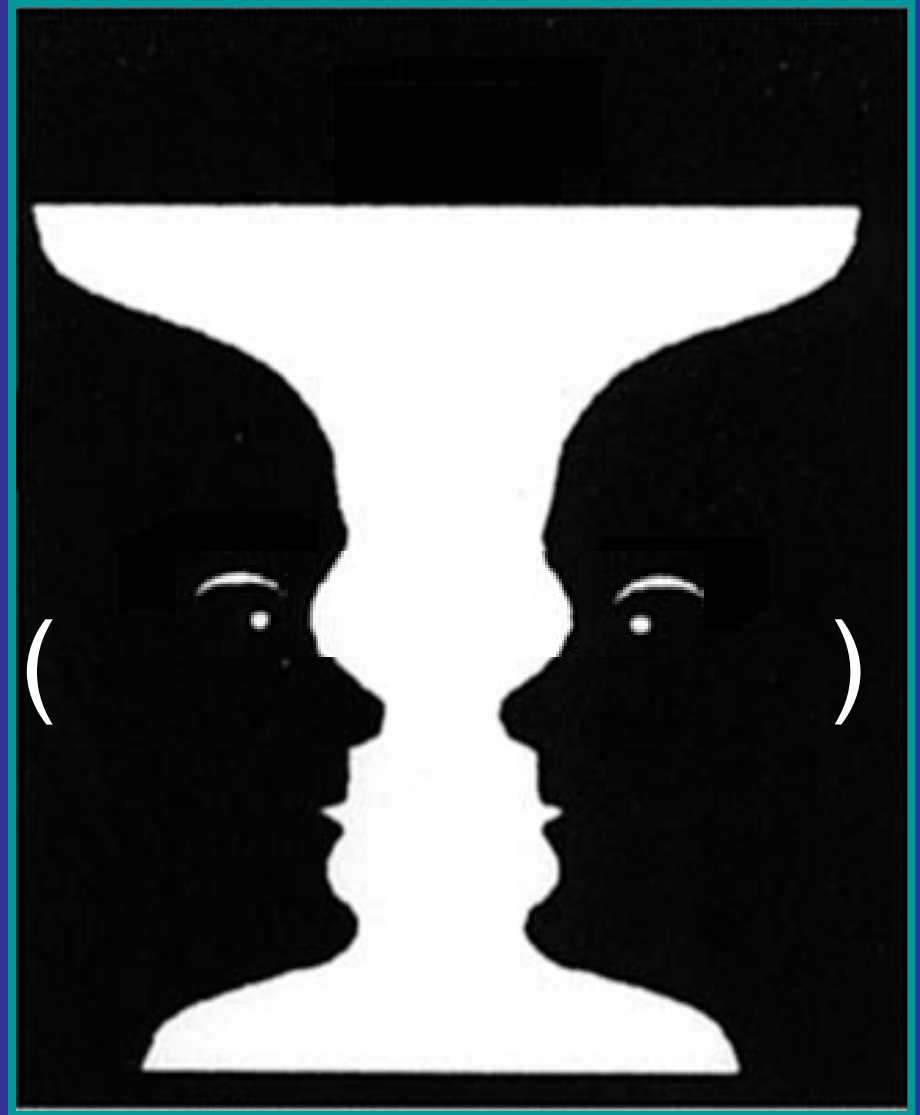
but, if he will be content to begin
with doubts,
he shall end in certainties.”

Francis Bacon

“The devil is in the details”



Fountain?



Or ... Faces?

On knowing enough to control nature:

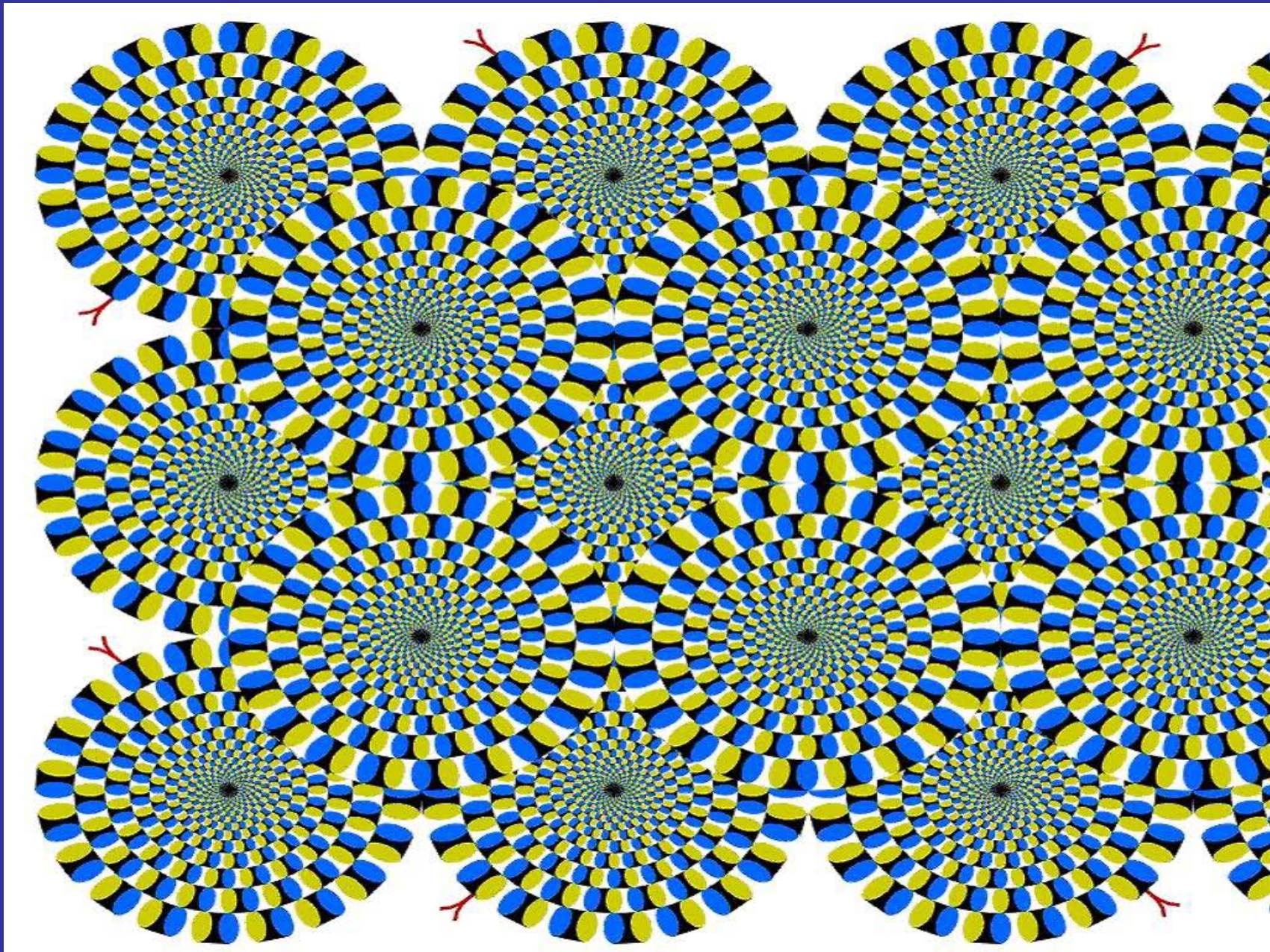
“We are like voyeurs looking through the key hole at a beautiful woman. She doesn't mind until we break down the bathroom door wanting to take possession, then she slaps the shit out of us”

A friend



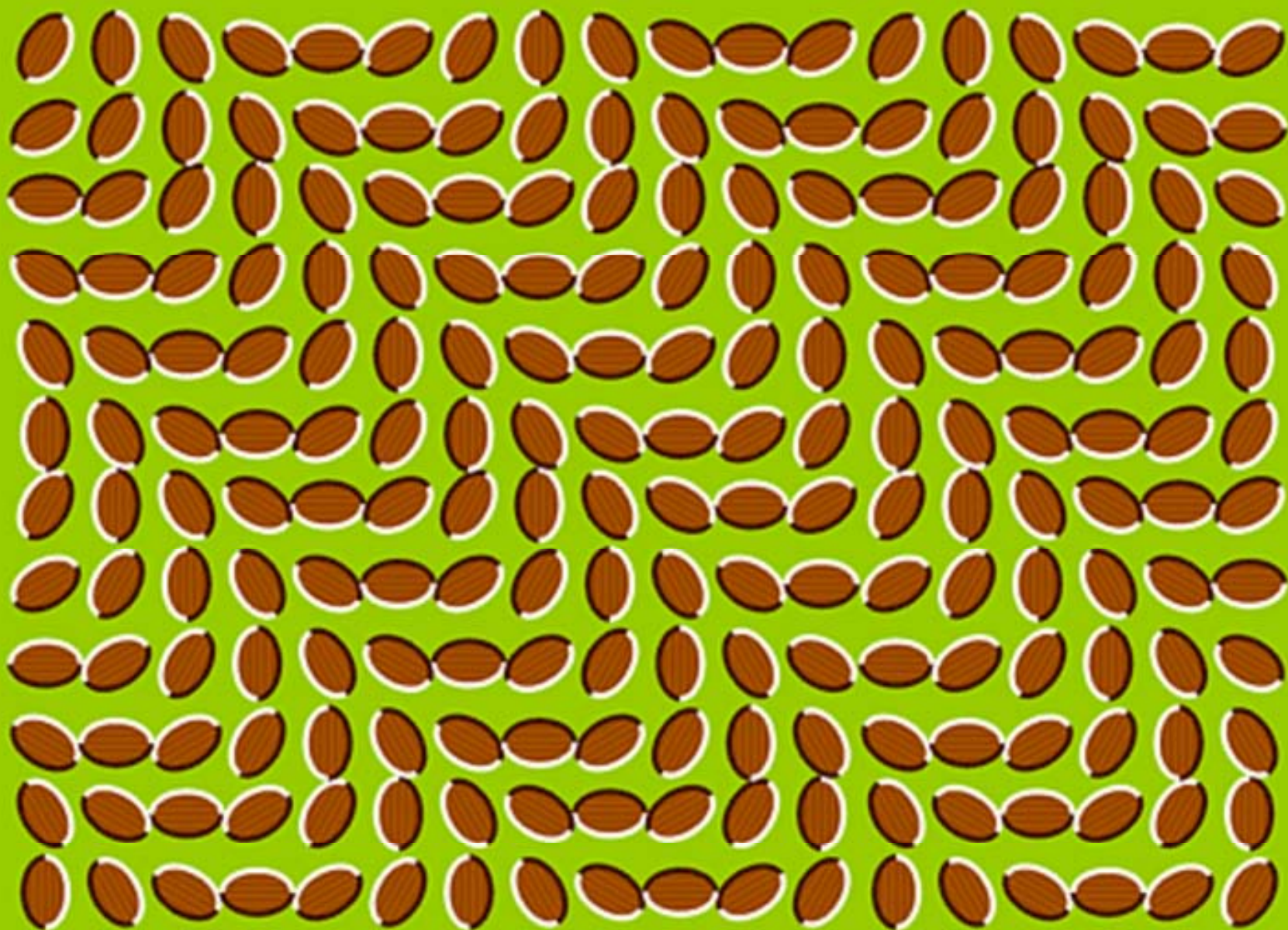
You should see a man's face
and also a word...

Hint: Try tilting your head to
the right, the world begins with
'L'



“To have doubted one's own first principles is the mark of a civilized man.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

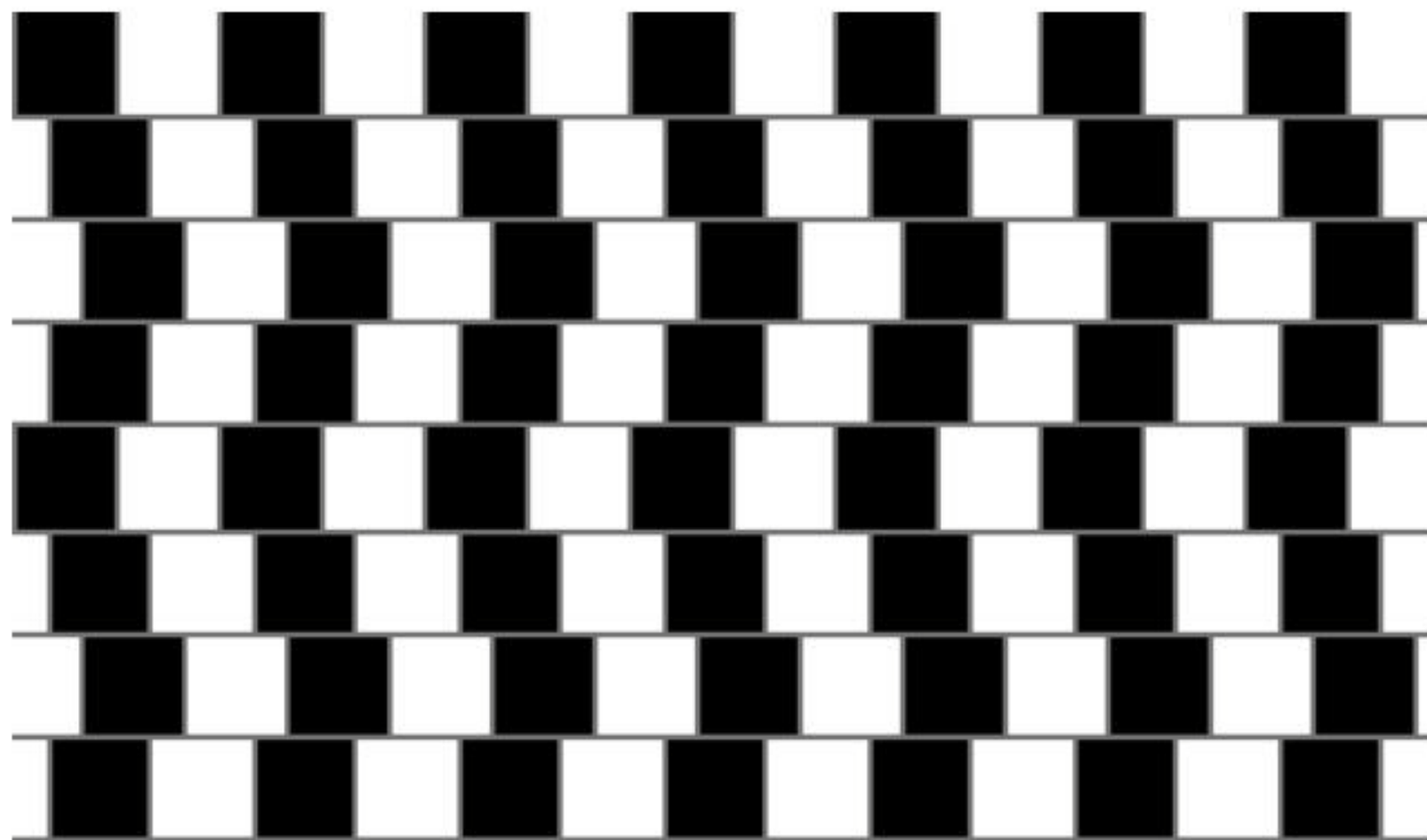


“Doubt may be an uncomfortable
condition,
....but certainty is ridiculous!”

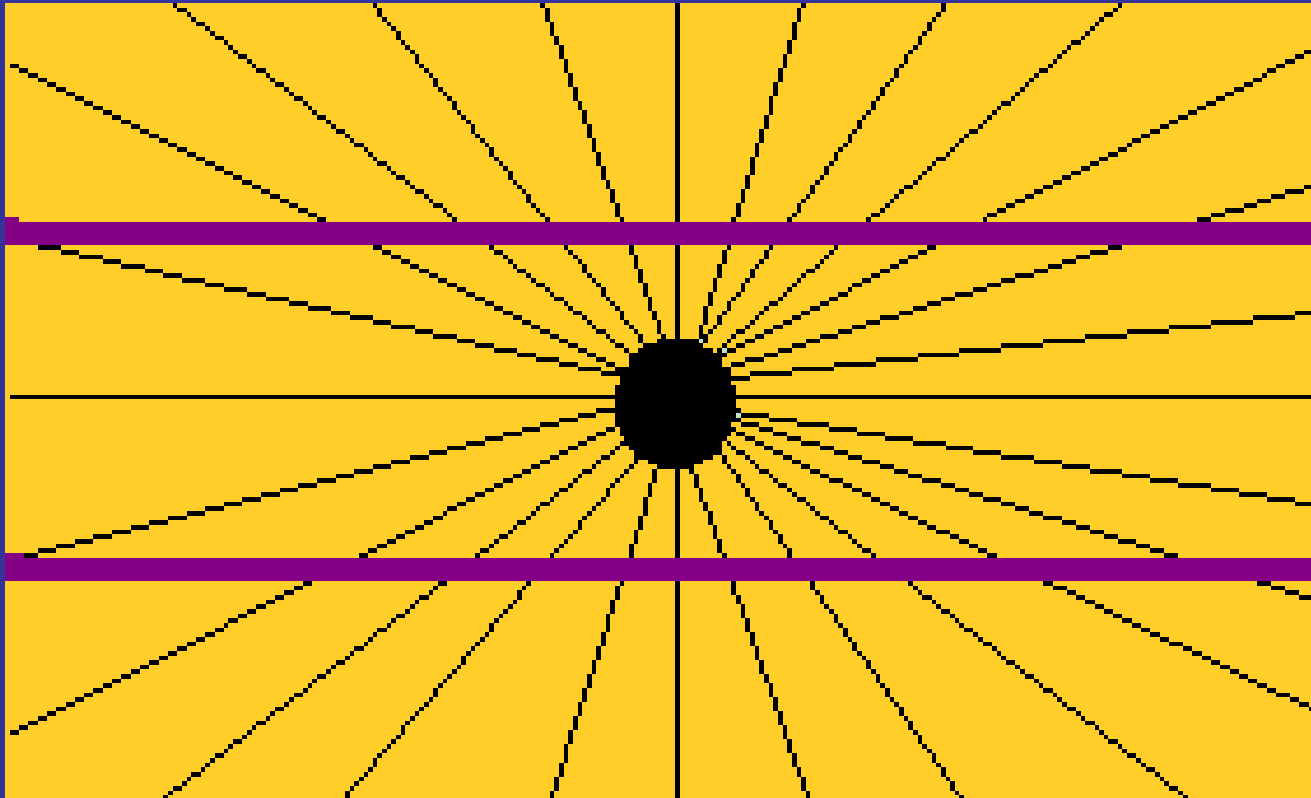
Voltaire

“Scientific research is a strenuous and devoted attempt to force nature into the conceptual boxes supplied by professional education”

Thomas Kuhn 1987
The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. Univ. Chicago Press.



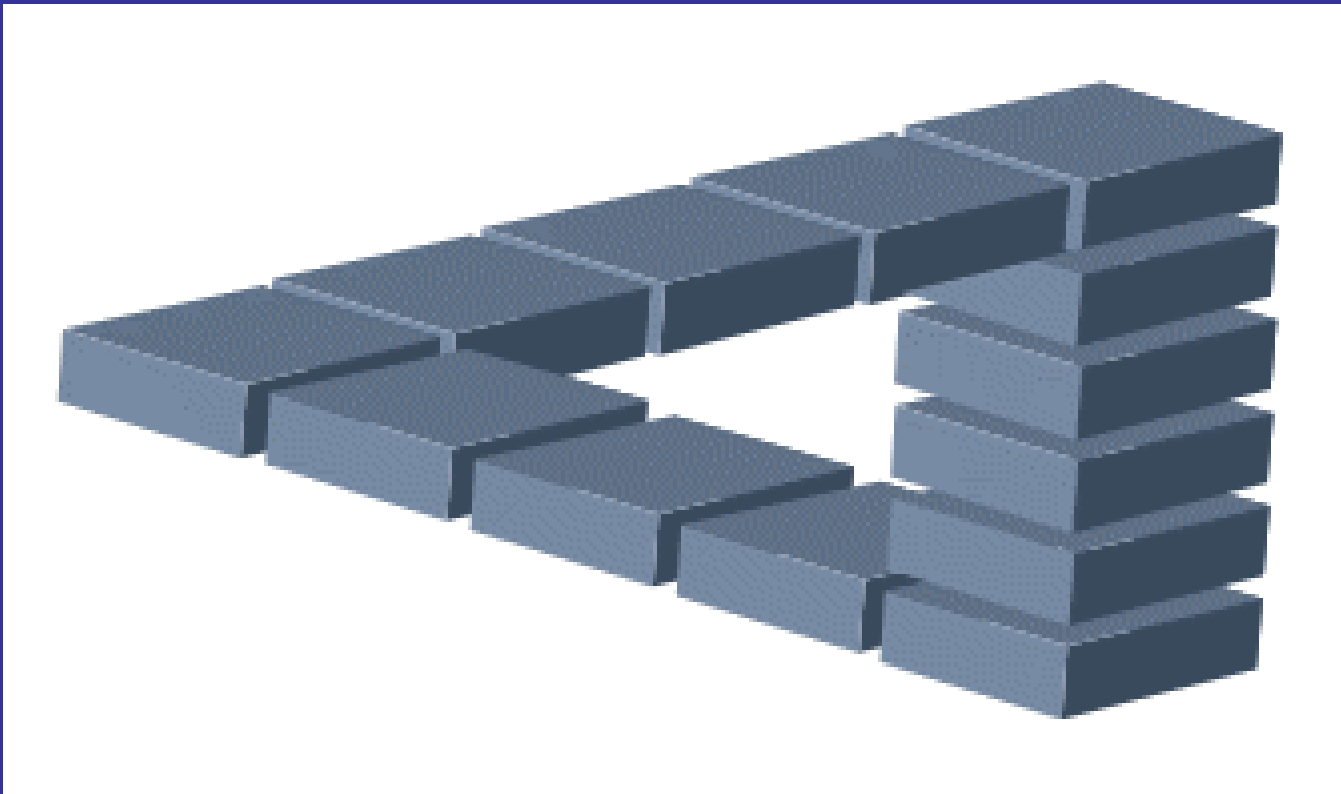
Are the horizontal lines parallel or do they slope?



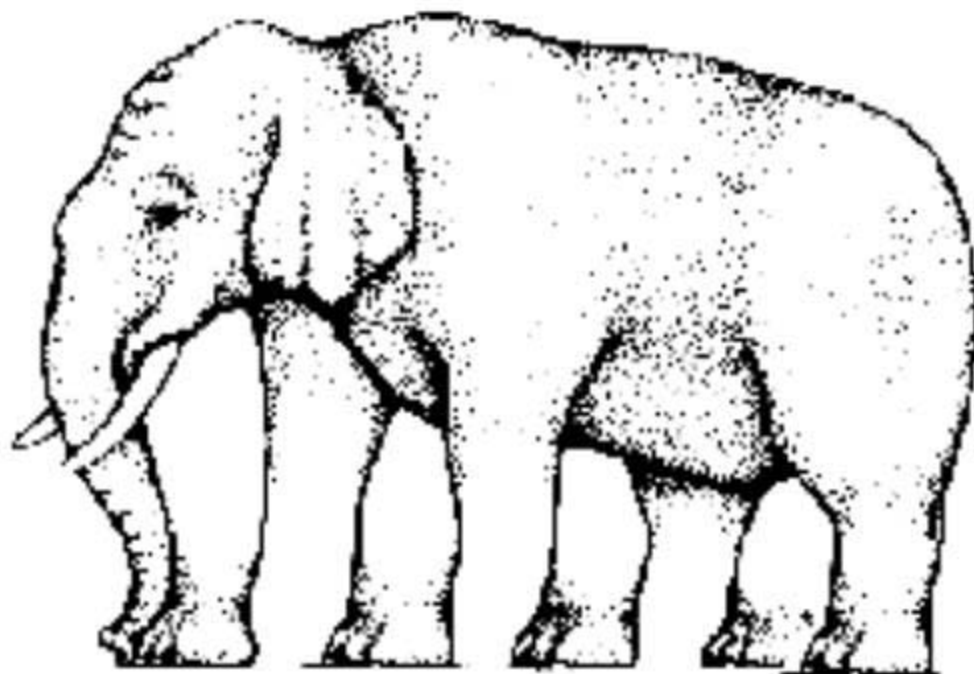
Are the purple lines straight or bent?

“The fundamental cause of the trouble is that in the modern world the stupid are cocksure, while the intelligent are full of doubt.”

Bertrand Russell
"The Triumph of Stupidity"
"Triumph of Stupidity"



Is this possible!?!



How many legs does this elephant have?

“To have doubted one's own first principles is the signature of a civilized (wo)man.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes
"Ideals and Doubts", *Illinois Law Rev* 3 (1915).



“If a man will begin with
certainties,
he shall end in doubts;

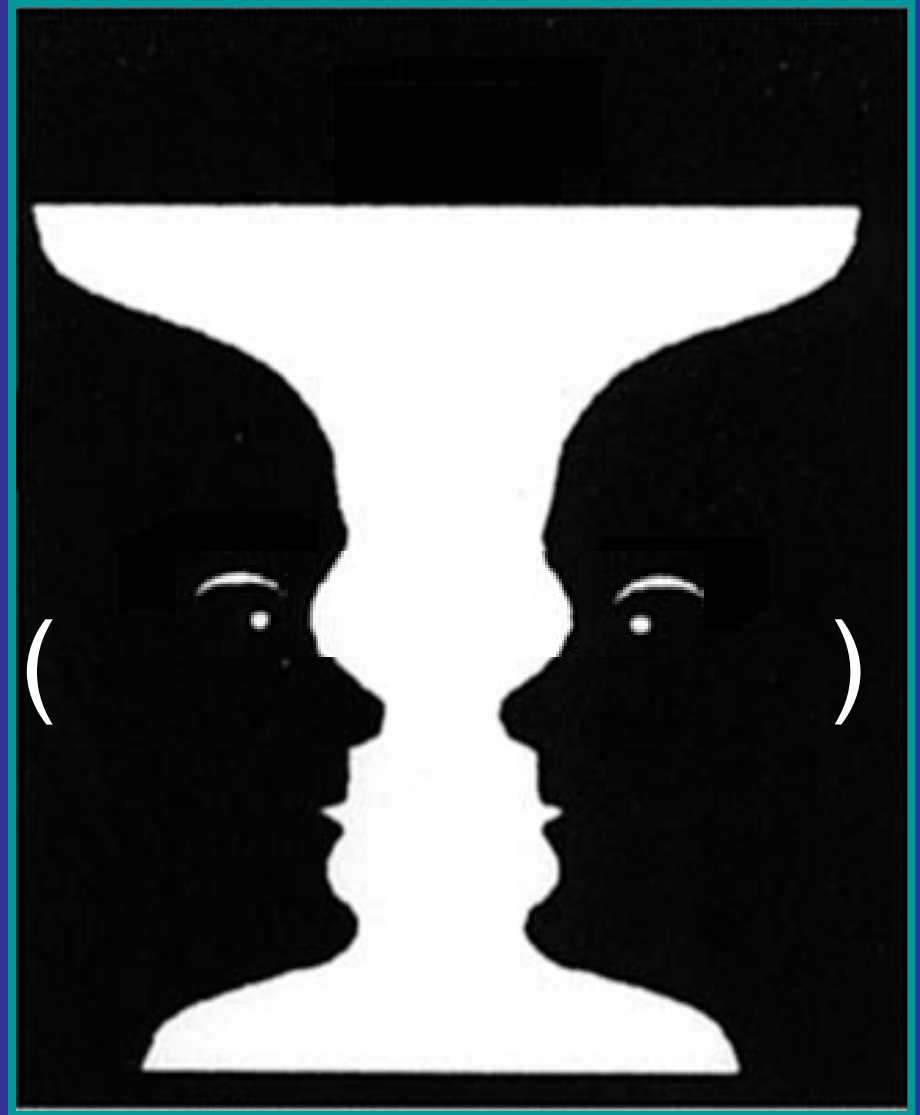
but, if he will be content to begin
with doubts,
he shall end in certainties.”

Francis Bacon

“The devil is in the details”



Fountain?



Or ... Faces?

On knowing enough to control nature:

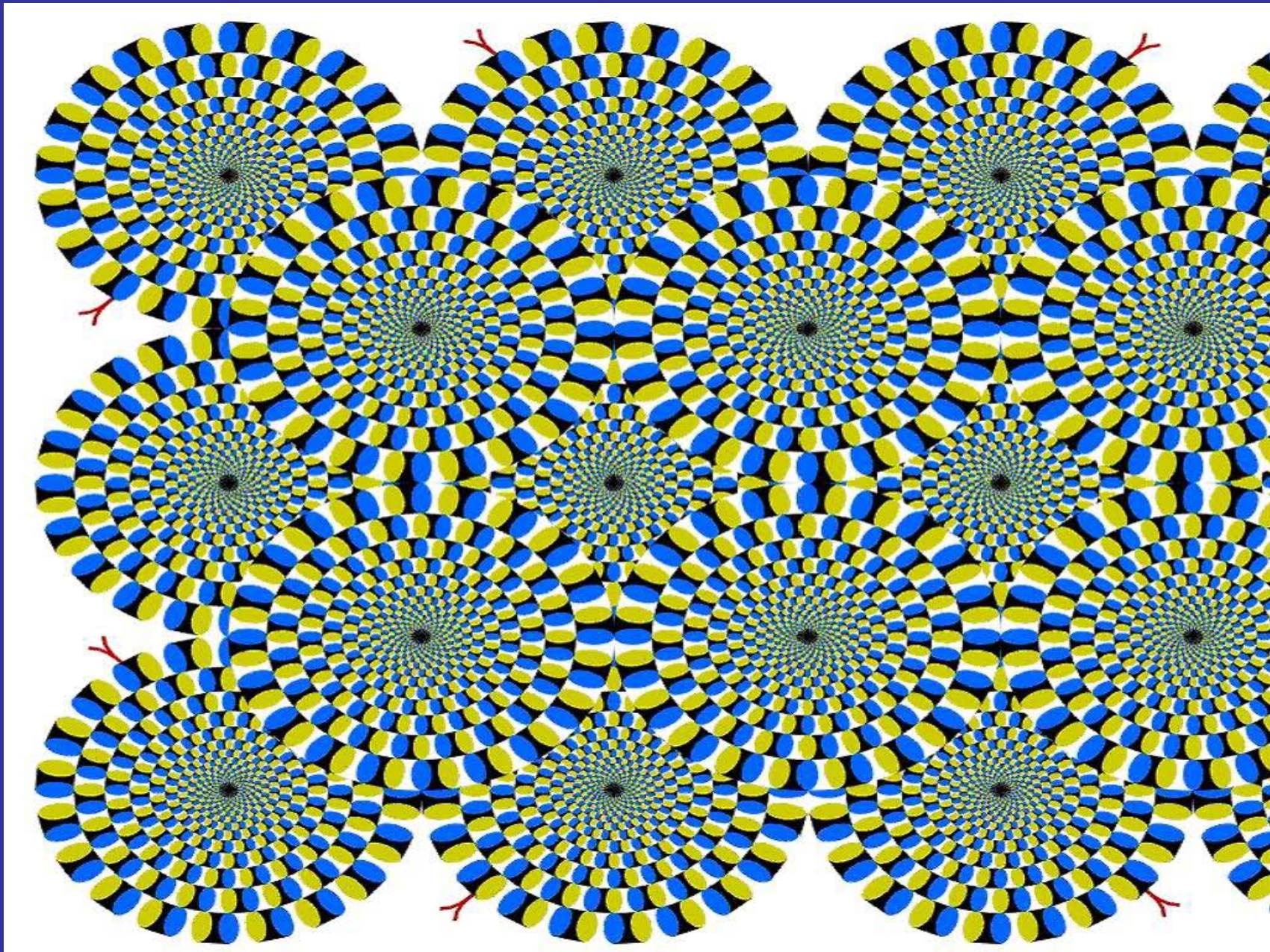
“We are like voyeurs looking through the key hole at a beautiful woman. She doesn't mind until we break down the bathroom door wanting to take possession, then she slaps the shit out of us”

A friend



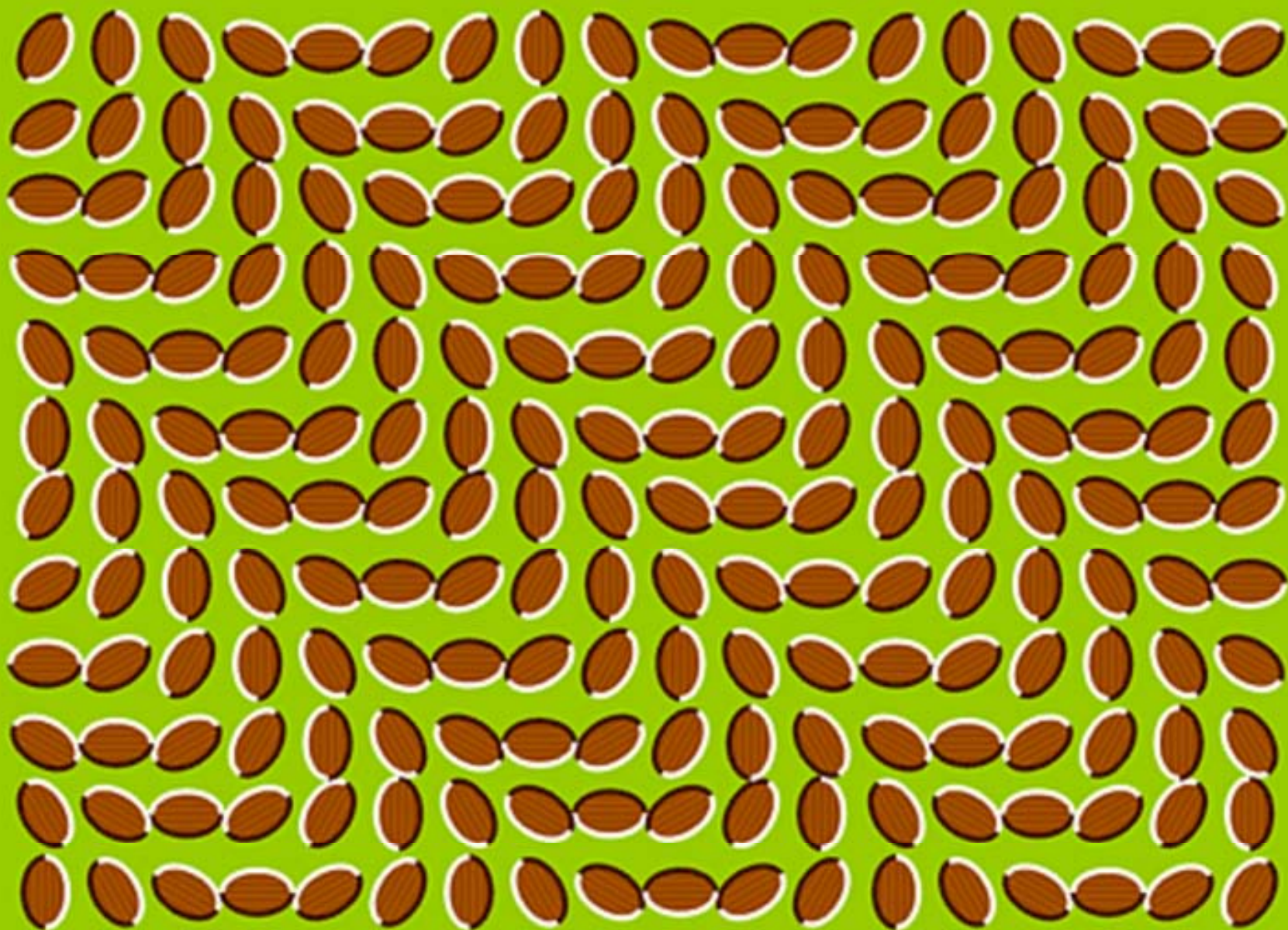
You should see a man's face
and also a word...

Hint: Try tilting your head to
the right, the world begins with
'L'



“To have doubted one's own first principles is the mark of a civilized man.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.



“Doubt may be an uncomfortable
condition,
....but certainty is ridiculous!”

Voltaire

Doubt and the Value of an Ignorance-Based World View for Coastal Habitat Restoration

Wes Jackson

Land Institute

R. Eugene Turner

LSU

Robin Lewis

Lewis Environmental Services, Inc.

Restore America's Estuaries

5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine
Habitat Restoration

14 Nov. 2010

Vitek, B. and W. Jackson, Ed. 2008 *The Virtues of Ignorance*. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington

Turner, R. E. 2009. Doubt and the values of an ignorance-based world view for wetland restoration: Coastal Louisiana. *Estuaries and Coasts* 32: 1054-1068.