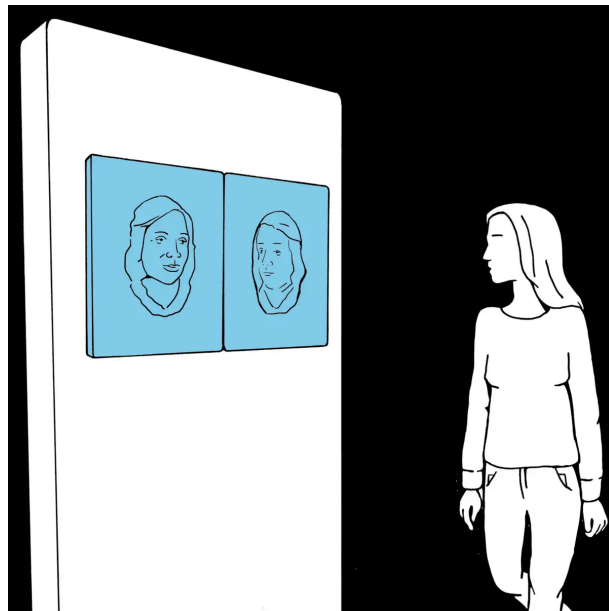


Hollow Faces

Do you feel like you're being watched when you walk past the masks?



Walk round the masks – at some distance away – while looking at the eyes.

What strikes you most when you compare their appearances?

What is the real difference between them?

Your eye-brain system uses various techniques to estimate distances. When things are reasonably close, it is the stereoscopic vision using both eyes which operates. This can distinguish quite small differences in distance and is principally used in hand-eye coordination. For greater distances, the brain uses different clues, for example comparing the sizes of various objects or even the lengths of shadows. Often the brain has a definite expectation and that is what produces this mask illusion. Normal faces are convex – curved outwards – and so the concave – curved inwards – mask is perceived as convex and this makes it seem as though its eyes follow you around.