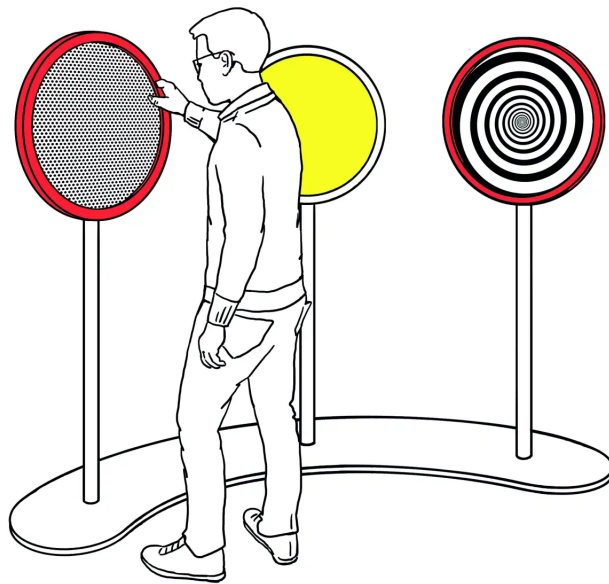


Mona Lisa spin

How does Mona Lisa's smile change when you look at a rotating pattern first?



Turn one of the discs.

Stare at the center of the turning disc and slowly count to ten.

Then look at Mona Lisa.

Do you see anything strange?

Repeat the experiment with the other disc.

Try both directions of rotation for the spiral pattern.

Mona Lisa appears to be rotating after you have looked at the spinning dot pattern. After staring at the spiral, Mona Lisa seems to either come towards you, expanding, or she seems to be moving away, shrinking, depending on the direction in which you have turned the disk.

The motion afterimage illusion occurs when you look steadily at a moving object for ten seconds or longer. The brain gets used to the movement so that when you change your gaze to something that is not moving, you see it moving in the opposite direction. This phenomenon is also known as the waterfall effect, because if you look at a waterfall for a while and then look at the surrounding landscape, it will appear to move upward.