

Anamorphic Eye

Do you recognise something in the green stripes on the wall?



Look for the point from which a picture emerges.

If you stand between the "Woozy tunnel" and the exhibit "Sisyphus", you can recognise an eye in the green stripes on the wall.

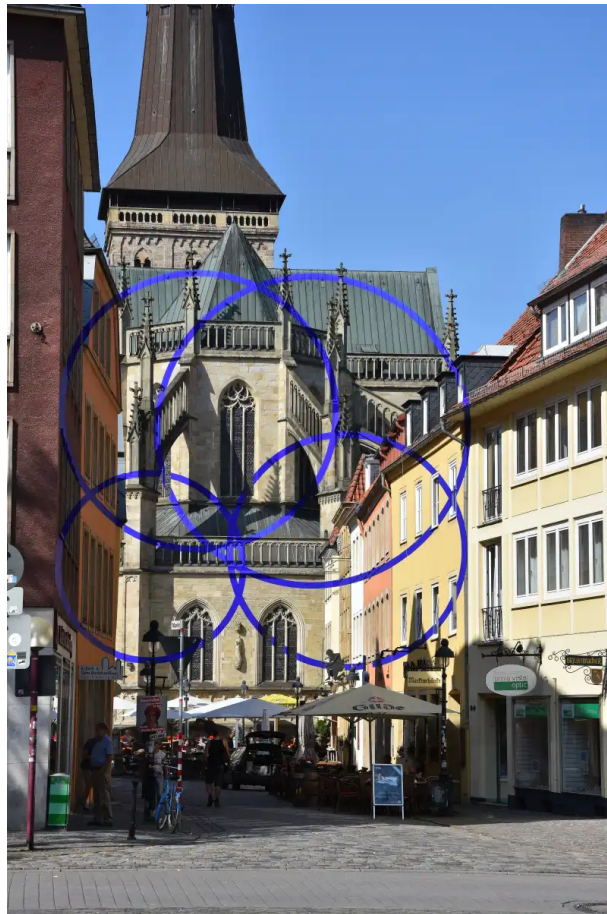
Such images, which you can only see completely and without distortion from a certain perspective or with the help of a special mirror, are called anamorphosis (gr. ana = back and gr. morphe = shape).

An example of this phenomenon is the painting "The Ambassadors" by Hans Holbein the Younger. The skull in the painting is only clearly visible when viewed from the bottom left (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: "The Ambassadors" (1533) by Hans Holbein the Younger.

The Swiss artist Felice Varini uses buildings to display geometric shapes on them as anamorphoses (Fig. 2).



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Fig. 2: Vier blaue Kreise (2017) by Felice Varini, Marienkirche Osnabrück.

You also encounter such anamorphoses in everyday life, for example in the signs on bus lanes. If you stand on the footpath right next to a bus lane, the letters BUS appear thin and elongated. From a distance, e.g. from an approaching car, the letters have their usual shape.