

- [sleep](#)
- [social networks](#)
- [somafm](#)
- [sparklesparkle](#)
- [specimen](#)
- [strep](#)
- [surgery](#)
- [throat](#)
- [video](#)
- [video games](#)
- [videos](#)
- [work](#)
- [zombies](#)



Here is the normal large version. They appear to be looking straight ahead. Of course this is because you have the resolution to see a well defined pupil and are not tricked by odd shadows:

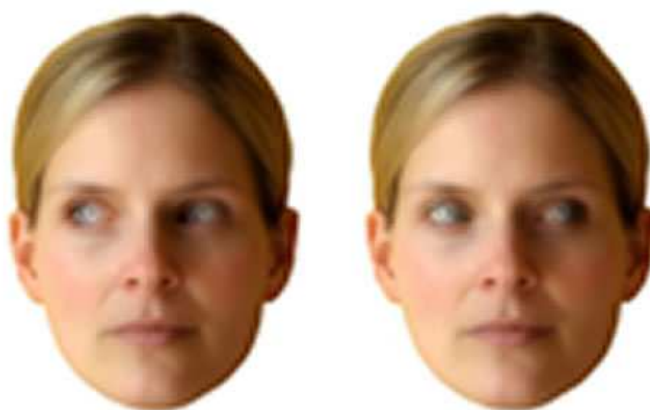


Now here is where I demonstrate what the problem is. I took the very very small image and enlarged it effectively reducing it's resolution. I purposely used [bicubic](#) rather than [nearest neighbor](#) to expand the image. The aliasing probably more closely resembles the lack of resolution our eye has at greater distances:



As you can tell, the eyes are very hard to distinguish where the pupil is because of how the image was manufactured. An unnaturally light pupil competing against a shadow at low resolution does not provide our eyes and brain with enough detail to make an effective decision.

I also made an image that is at medium resolution so you can see how it creeps into the middle of recognizability:



To me this is not much of a "visual illusion". It is just a case of a manipulated image taking advantage of the lack of resolution to force feed us a different interpretation of the image. Just like a commercial I recall seeing where a beautiful woman is running at the camera from afar only to reveal that she is actually an elderly woman who is not as attractive as you were lead to believe. I wouldn't consider this much of a "visual illusion", let alone "One of the Best Visual Illusions of the Year".

[view 2 comments](#) or [Leave a comment](#)

Comments

Thread started by Garret Merriam



From: [imlac](#)

Date: May 18th, 2008 04:28 am (UTC)

[\(Link\)](#)

Agreed. Very well demonstrated.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#)



From: [kraquehaus](#)

Date: May 18th, 2008 07:30 pm (UTC)

[\(Link\)](#)

Thank you.

It seriously irritated me. I LOVE visual illusions, but having this one near the top list of them seemed repulsive to me. There are so many more out there that are much better windows into the mind than this.

It's like having a food contest and a version of oatmeal made the top 10 just because they used two different colored syrups in squeeze bottles to garnish.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#)

[view 2 comments](#) or [Leave a comment](#)