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Ghostly Gaze Illusion by Rob Jenkins 15

May 18, 2008 by Vurdlak



Best Visual Illusion of The Year contest is something we've been covering for two years in a row. Top 10 submissions of 2008 can be found on the Contest homepage. While this illusion hasn't made it close to top 3, its surely my favorite this year. Here is the explanation: how do we tell where other people are looking at? Conventional wisdom says the dark parts of their eyes give it away. The

Ghostly Gaze optical illusion reveals a more subtle process - from a distance, the two sisters seem to stare at each other. But wait! Using the flash zooming slider, if you bring them closer, they turn their eyes to you! This is not a computer trick.

To convince yourself, set the slider to "Close" and walk away from your computer screen while looking at the image. Notice that when you are sitting in front of the monitor, the sisters are looking at you, but when you are about 3 meters away, they look at each other! The illusion is based on the hybrid image technique, developed by Schyns and Oliva. The Ghostly Gaze illusion shows that details such as the outline of the iris can override larger patches of darkness. Which section should I add this article to? I was thinking of "Multiple Meanings" or "Animations", but am not exactly sure? To check some of the best optical illusions from 2007 (I don't share the same opinion), visit this article.

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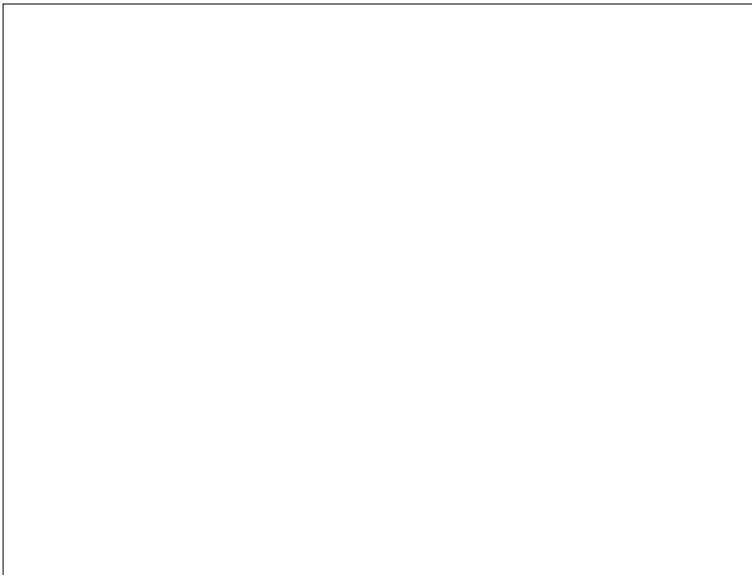
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- Anonymous**
 Wow, thats really weird, but from far I already say they looked at me though...
- GossipGirly112**
 1st post?!?!

 cool illusion, love the site
- art**
 first of all, nice, second, do something w/ igoogle, the [picture](#) looks all blocky
- Anonymous**
 try merging the two faces, like a stereogram, then the eyes look really freaky
- akane95**
 Thanks for sharing the contest homepage. I don't agree with their winners. I think the "Skyscrapers and Clouds" should be in the top three at least. Check it out here:
http://illusioncontest.neuralcorrelate.com/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=148
- Andys Alley**



Thanks for getting rid of that damn animated gif file. I hate it when those show up on my Google home-page.

As far as this one goes, not much of an illusion. Anyone who has worn glasses or contacts could probably tell you that small shadows in the distance can be misleading.

Still - thanks for replacing that gif file. Every time animated gifs show up, I'm another step close to deleting this add-in.

7.  **big fan**

hi im bryan i love this site ive been coming to this sight for along time anyways thats a really cool illusion hope to see more

8.  **Anonymous**

its only because there is a dark shading in the corners that their eyes "travel" to and you cant see the clear eye far away.

9.  **Anonymous**

not that cool.

10.  **Anonymous**

cool

11.  **Tri**

Oh, wow! That is so cool! I love it!
When I look at them individually, their eyes don't seem to move, but when I look at both of them at the same time, from farther away, they're looking at me, and then when I zoom them in, their eyes turn to me! Freaky...

12.  **Anonymous**

it only works because the girls eyes are a very pale blue. The blue eyes blend in with the white part of the eye at a distance and the shadow becomes a brown colored pupil. Amazing effect though.

13.  **omg.mia.rawr[:**

haha
thats creepy..
i like it[:

14.  **ash.hsa**

with the picture of the sister at the top of the post, i got the impression they were both looking outwards and not towards each other at all.

but the slider did work :)

15.  **Anonymous**

love the illusion
love the site!