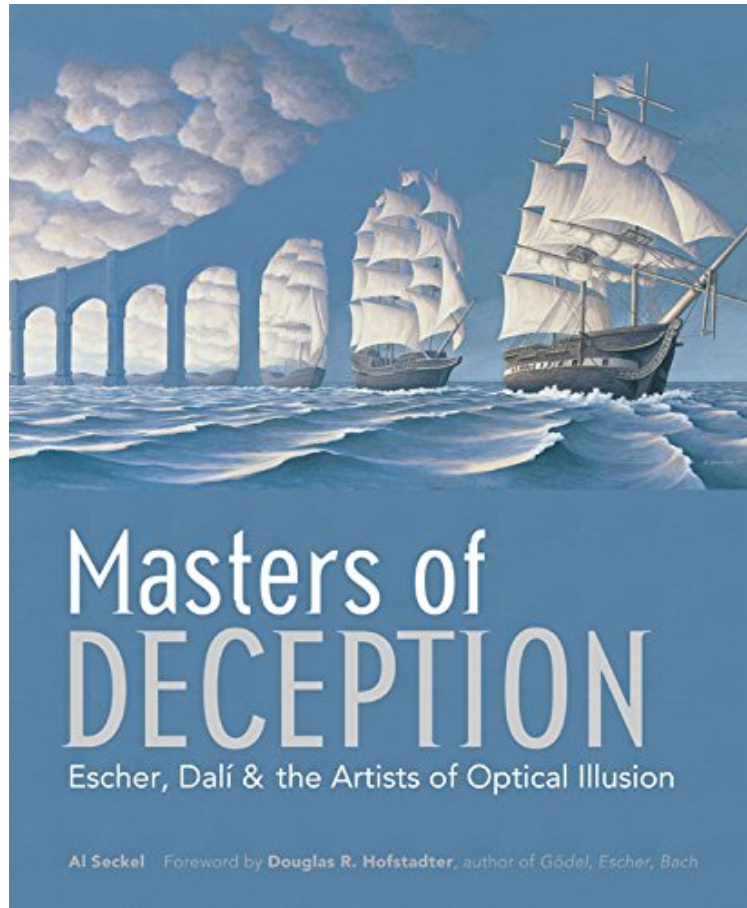


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Masters of Deception: Escher, Dali the Artists of Optical Illusion

Al Seckel

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Al Seckel : Masters of Deception: Escher, Dali the Artists of Optical Illusion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Masters of Deception: Escher, Dali the Artists of Optical Illusion:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Overview of Art Based on Illusions By Danno This is a beautiful paperback art book that covers a broad spectrum of art related to optical illusions. I've seen it on sale in many locations, including museum gift shops. Escher, Dali, and Arcimboldo are represented (as you'd expect) but the bulk of the book is devoted to a wide variety of artists inspired by either the artists mentioned earlier or various quirks of visual perception. Op Art is well-represented, as are ambigrams, nontraditional portraiture, unabashedly commercial artwork, and sculptures based on constructions in Escher's famous works. I'd already seen many of these images on the internet, but it's better to see them within this intelligent context. The book, with its many full-page reproductions, does a wonderful job of exciting the reader with the possibilities of illusionistic art, and wisely lets the artwork speak for itself more often than not. Two things did surprise me about this book (although they did not cause me to lower my rating). There is very little in here to connect these works of art to even the basic principles of visual perception in

layman's terms. I was also surprised to see so little attention given to Magritte, who seems to have overtaken Dali in the public's mind as the supreme Surrealist. There is some minor nudity scattered around, but nothing that isn't PG-13. When I was a teen many years ago, I treasured my Escher calendars and Dali postcards. I would have loved to have seen such a book back then, and I am glad that this book is still in print and reasonably popular. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Love it!!!! By Midnight My second copy. The first arrived with slight damage (hey it happens) and lived up to their reputation- a replacement came quick and easy! The book itself is the best of it's kind- real artists, well known and lesser known, but no collections of dumb optical illusions. This is real art, using perspective in ways you never imagined! 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Not for kids! By Kimberly This is a very cool book. However, I bought it for my 10 year old there are some pretty inappropriate pictures in there. I will not be giving him this book. I'll be returning the book finding a more age appropriate, optical illusions book.

Astonishing creations by masters of the art, such as Escher, Dali, and Archimboldo; amazing visual trickery; and an illuminating foreword by the Pulitzer Prize--winning author Douglas R. Hofstadter make this 320-page, breathtaking collection the definitive book of optical illusions. Rings of seahorses that seem to rotate on the page. Butterflies that transform right before your eyes into two warriors with their horses. A mosaic portrait of oceanographer Jacques Cousteau made from seashells. These dazzling and often playful artistic creations manipulate perspective so cleverly that they simply outwit our brains: we can't just take a quick glance and turn away. They compel us to look once, twice, and over and over again, as we try to figure out exactly how the delightful trickery manages to fool our perceptions so completely. Of course, first and foremost, every piece is beautiful on the surface, but each one offers us so much more. Some, including Sandro del Prete's charming Window Gazing, construct illusionary worlds where normal conceptions of up, down, forward, and back simply have no meaning anymore. Others, such as Jos De Meys's Ceci nest pas un Magritte, create visual puns on earlier work. From Escher's famous and elaborate Waterfall to Shigeo Fukuda's Mary Poppins, where a heap of bottles, glasses, shakers, and openers somehow turn into the image of a Belle Epoque woman when the spotlight hits them, these works of genius will provide endless enjoyment and food for thought.

[G]reat full page pictures, and just plain fun to browse. Library Journal Children will find pleasure in [this] book, alongside their parents. Wall Street Journal