



Street art in city – Artist unknown

Sensation and Perception 1

Introduction



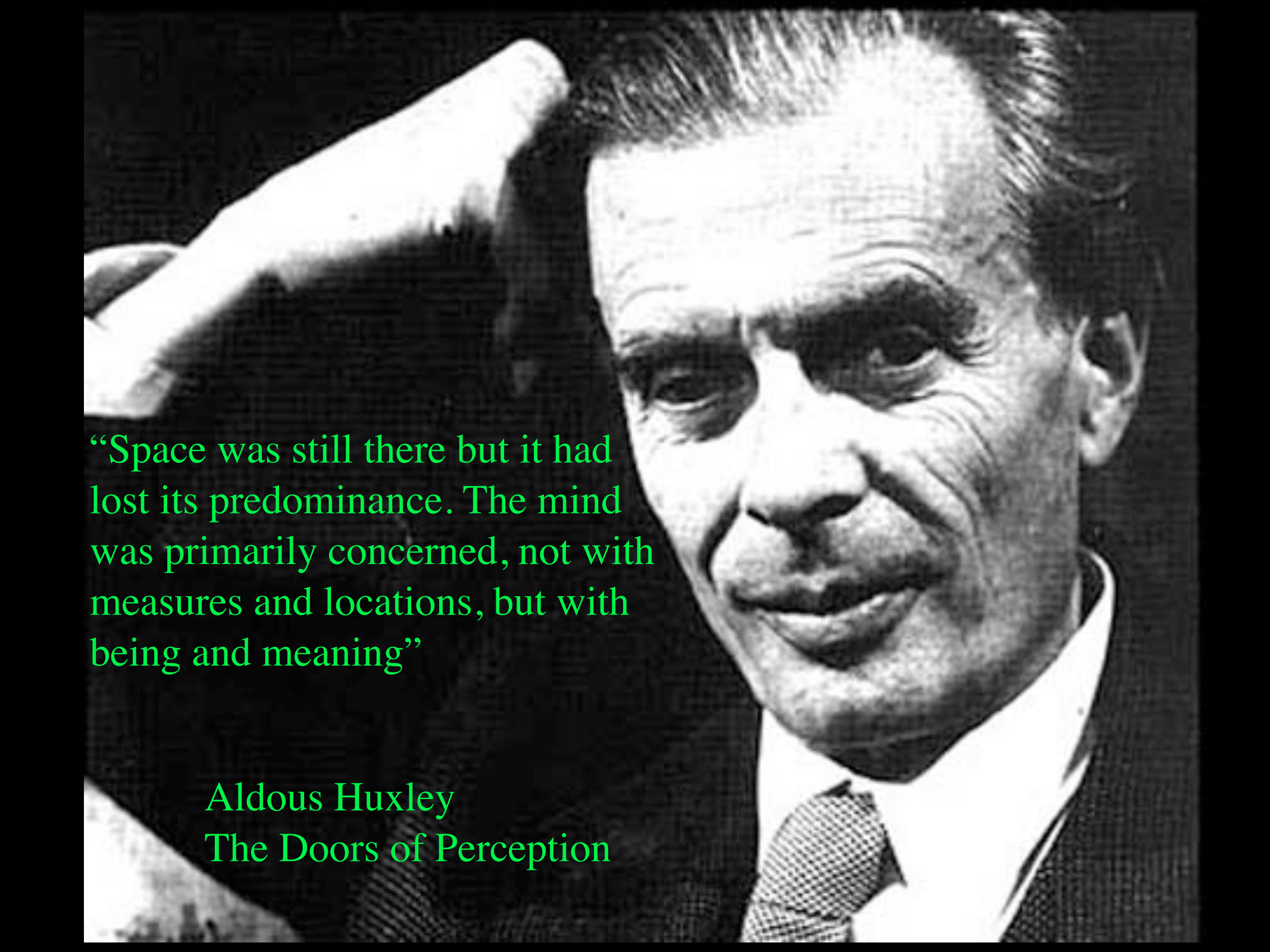
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William James (1842-1910)

- “This multitude of ideas, existing absolutely, yet clinging together, like dominoes in ceaseless change, or bits of glass in a kaleidoscope, - whence do they get their fantastic laws of clinging, and why do they cling in just the shapes they do?”

(from The Principles of Psychology, James, 1890).

A high-contrast, black and white close-up portrait of Aldous Huxley. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a thoughtful expression. His right hand is raised to his forehead, with fingers spread. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white collared shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is dark and out of focus.

“Space was still there but it had lost its predominance. The mind was primarily concerned, not with measures and locations, but with being and meaning”

Aldous Huxley
The Doors of Perception

What is 'reality'?

- You assume it is what you see, hear, touch, taste and smell - but is this assumption justified?

Vision as Reflection

“The prison-house is the world of sight.”

Plato (427-347BC)



Vision as Construction

“The ‘apparent world’
and the ‘true world’
means - ‘the world’ and,
‘nothing’.”

Friedrich Nietzsche
(1844-1900)





Salvador Dalí (1904-1989)



WWW.100TONN.RU

Apparition of Face and Vase on a Beach, 1938 - Dalí

Apparition of Face and Vase on a Beach, Dalí, 1938



Three Ages of Man, Dali, 1940





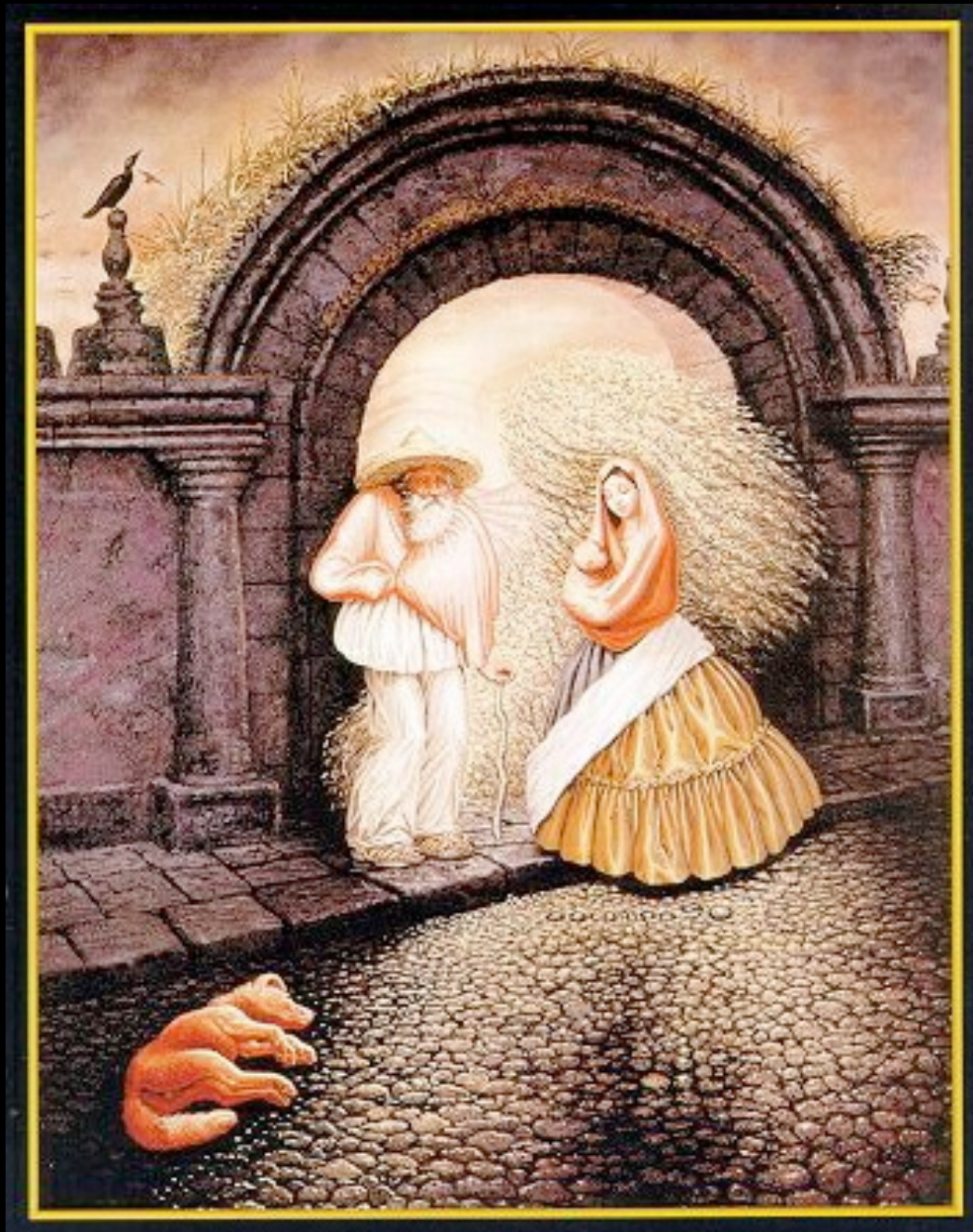




<http://facesinplaces.blogspot.com.au/>

The flexibility of the 'real world'

- Dreams, hallucination and reality
 - Are they qualitatively different or just variations on a theme?
- The flexibility of some images show how your interpretation can change despite an unchanging input



9 faces?



Galea contemplating the mediterranean sea. *Dali 1976*

Question your world

- In order to understand how the visual system may work you must realise what it has to do
- To realise what it has to do you must perturb your expectations to the extent that you at least entertain the possibility that the world only exists in your head

The Assignment

A scenic view of a river at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, reflecting on the water. A bridge with several arches spans the river. In the background, there are buildings and hills under a clear sky.

- Watching the sun set
 - How does your world change as the light source changes?
- Light, Colour and Sound
 - The Kaleidoscopic Turn, NGV@ Fed Square
 - Learning to really look around you and think

Why?

- So you learn to look - to *see*
- So you learn how to write notes about what you see
- So you learn to relate what you see to what you know, or think you know
- So you learn to write clearly and accurately about your observations and thoughts

Your reality

- The world is rarely what it seems
- The relationship between the retinal projection, the neural image and the resultant percept is far from clear
- Relax and enjoy yourselves, learn something (and stop worrying)



