

Since the visual system is designed to make judgments about three dimensional shapes, it does not always produce accurate judgments about the two dimensional shapes in the page. The two grey parallelograms here are the same shape and size on the page, but look quite different. You can verify this remarkable illusion, which was devised by Roger Shephard, by placing tracing paper over one parallelogram, tracing the outline, and then rotating it to line up with the other one. You can also demonstrate this effect to a group using an overhead projector, and tracing onto a second clear sheet.

