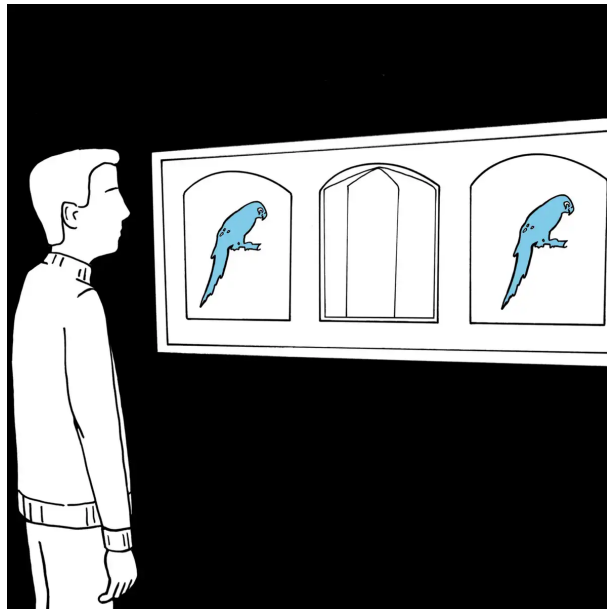


Birdwatching

Can you get one of the birds into the cage without touching it?



Stare hard at the red bird from about three metres away and count slowly up to 30.

What can you see when you then look at the empty cage?

What is different, when you repeat the experiment with the green bird?

If you stare for a long while at a red object, the red-sensitive cells in your eyes become “tired”. They are effectively blind for a while, so send no signals to the brain. If you look at a white background (e.g. the empty cage) during this time, your eyes register the colour white minus red: the bird image appears blue-green (cyan).

In the case of a green object, it is the green-sensitive cells which become exhausted, so that on looking at the white surface, you see white minus green, which appears red-violet (magenta).