

Artistry Words vs. visuals



René Magritte, *The Treachery of Images*, 1928–29.
Oil on canvas, 63.5 cm × 93.98 cm, Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Magritte's artwork may makes us think about the difference between words and images and how they are related.

The writing says, in French, "This is not a pipe." And it is true, isn't it? It is an image of a pipe?

Writing and words are very powerful. A big part of learning how to observe like an artist is learning how to change the way you look at things.

Usually we look at things, and we simply see that thing like a word (a schema). This is absolutely vital in everyday life.

But artists need to forget the schema and focus on observing things in terms of their visual qualities. This means focusing on light, dark, line, shape, texture, colour, and so on.

This is tricky than you might think for most people because for many of us, words are much more powerful than visuals. How powerful?

I have created a little test for you online so that you can see for yourself.

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