

Thi Phuong-Trâm Nguyen

DELINEATING SURFACES

07

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http://drawingon.org/uploads/papers/IS02-07_180716.pdf

ABSTRACT

*This paper retraces the explorations engaged in by the Minim friar Jean-François Nicéron (1613-1646). His treatise, *La Perspective curieuse*, recounts his search for anamorphic images and suggests the pursuit of 'delight in seeing the possibilities beyond the expected' that these images offer. Anamorphic representations are deformed images, whereby the point of view is displaced in space. As a result, the resolution of the image is only possible through the adjustment of the body, the re-positioning of the body near that unique secondary vantage point. Based on the capacity of anamorphic representations to disclose a space for wonder manifested only in the physical encounter with the image, the following text presents a workshop undertaken with PhD students where we re-enacted Nicéron's drawing instructions to explore the significance of 'reaching toward a meaning not yet known' that he envisioned.*

Through the workshop, the act of delineating a surface became a way to occupy and inhabit the space. The text is presented in the format of a script to allow readers to follow the events that happened during the workshop, but also to encourage rehearsal and to invite the event to be played again. The script, as well as Nicéron's drawing instructions, are meant to be read, played and repeated, in the same way the movement by a body is a prerequisite for uncovering the meaning of the anamorphic image. These re-enactments do not only possess the potential to bring the past into the present, but they also—by the act of imagining a past-in-the-present—project our understanding of history into possible futures.

BIOGRAPHY

Thi Phuong-Trâm Nguyen is a trained architect in Canada, and holds an MA in Architectural History & Theory from McGill University, Montreal. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Architectural Design at The Bartlett. Her research addresses questions of duration and gesture involved in perception through the study of anamorphic construction with film and re-enactment. She is the coordinator (2016-2018) of the Bartlett Film+Place+Architecture Doctoral Network, a multi-disciplinary research platform founded by PhD students using filmmaking as a tool and method of research.

Thi Phuong-Trâm Nguyen

DELINEATING SURFACES

"We are more closely tied to the invisible than to the visible."¹

Novalis, 1713, quoted in Marco Frascari, *Monsters of Architecture, Anthropomorphism in Architectural Theory*.

NOTES TO THE READER

This text is based on events that took place during a workshop organised by The Bartlett Drawing Research programme on the 6th of May, 2016. For the session, I proposed to delineate an anamorphic image following the Minim friar Jean-François Nicéron's (1613-1646) proposition from *La Perspective curieuse*. The first aim of this paper was to provide a record of the experience as it happened that afternoon, but while writing, it appears that my approach to the work has also become anamorphic. The text gradually became contaminated with the ambition and direction I wanted the workshop to take. Consequently, this piece does not describe exactly what happened during the workshop, but represents a version situated between the actual and the expected.

The paper takes the form of a script written in such a way as to convey the different voices and forces that influenced the project. The multiplicity of gazes in the anamorphic transformation developed into the various characters of the script. The persona of **EYE_II**, **HAND_I**, **EYE_I**, **DRAUGHTSWOMEN** and **NARRATOR** are condensed and fictionalised version of the researcher's behaviour during the workshop.

Moreover, the act of writing this scenario, which recalls both ancient texts and the workshop, recreates the illusion that these texts and events are living, co-existent presences. I believe the gestures inherent in projective drawing operate in the same manner: they contain the sense of a co-habitation of space by existent and non-existent actors. Script and anamorphic image, simultaneously invoking presence and absence, ask to be completed through our encounter with them.

In *Eros and The Bittersweet*, Anne Carson notes the origins of the word reading in Greek: *anagnoskein* from *ana-*: again and *-gnoskein*: to know.² Reading is to know again. Like anamorphosis, composed of *ana-*: again and *-morphosis*: take form, the idea of taking form again in action is essential. Meaning emerges from the encounter between the text and the reader, between the viewer and the image. Close and distant past are actualised and reconciled in the performance of the play in the present moment.

The premise of anamorphic drawing resides in the shattering of the first appearance of an image. There is an intertwining of the primary image and the apparition of another as the observer experiences the space within which the image is housed. A change of position produces a change in perception. Thus, anamorphic images represent the embodiment of the experience of vision in a perpetual state of becoming. The two images cannot exist at the same time for the same eye; there is no stillness in the anamorphic transformation. **EYE_II** separates into **EYE_I** and **HAND_I** to bring forth a dialogue between what is perceived and what is felt.

According to Jurgis Baltrušaitis, an art historian who wrote the first book on the development of anamorphic images, the earliest example known of this type of images is from Leonardo da Vinci's *Codex Atlanticus* (1483-1518).³ Anamorphic images are a drawing projection technique that was developed in parallel with the science of perspective, and whose refinement culminates around the end of the 17th century. While perspective has evolved toward the use of geometry to represent the appearance of space on a flat plane as accurately as possible, anamorphic images use the same geometrical principles but carry them to an extreme, and instead create a break in the real. In anamorphic images, representation is not a perpendicular plane in front of the viewer but a diagonal cut in the cone of vision, allowing an entry into the space of vision.⁴

Nicéron wrote the first version of the treatise *La Perspective curieuse* in 1638, in French. It was the first work entirely dedicated to anamorphosis. The book illustrated a concise method to draw perspectival images as well as anamorphic images. Nicéron developed his fascination with this type of representation when he first saw the anamorphic mural painting of St-Francis de Paola in the Minim convent of Santa Trinità dei Monti in Rome. The mural was executed by the friar Emmanuel Maignan, and Nicéron added the technique of its delineation to the second edition of his treatise in 1646. At that time, with the corresponding work of the friar Marin Mersenne, the convent was an important centre of scientific studies driven by the search for wonder. Nicéron wrote in the preface that as to the practicality of the technique the reader must be 'taking delight in seeing the possibilities beyond what they expect'.⁵

The re-enactment of Nicéron's writings attempts to grasp what he saw beyond the expected. Anamorphic images open a space of desire for wonder manifested only in the physical encounter with the image. The anamorphic construction technique proposed by Nicéron reveals to us the structure of vision, and most importantly allows us to occupy that structure. The doubling of the anamorphic gaze is reflected in the play between the existence of the text and the performance in this piece.

The script stands as a set of instructions, similar to the treatise left by Nicéron, and aims to be re-enacted. The paper is put forward as something to be rehearsed; it is a perpetual work in progress emphasising the idea of repetition and the redundancy in the movement of drawing an anamorphic image. Back and forth, advancing and withdrawing, the performer is encouraged to add notes in the margins.

The notes that occupy the periphery of and intervene in the script are reflections on the workshop and trace the transformation from the workshop to the script. They also represent an interrogation of my own expectations while conducting the workshop. The images included depict the workshop conducted in May 2016, and the short film consists of selected scenes from the first rehearsal drawing of the script.

Through the dialogue and the stage directions the words established a sense of place, but also the boundaries of our experience. The text, similarly to the thread in the story, delineates the surfaces of things. As the story unfolds, we learn to know things without breaking them or tearing them apart, but by deforming them.

From a point on the primary image, the technique described by Nicéron delineates its trajectory in space. The multiplication of projected point is recollected on a second displaced picture plane. The act of writing and drawing, of ex-pressing, is the release of a feeling inside pressing to go out. As in Johanna Malt's description of the surface of contact in poetry in *Leaving Traces, Surface Contact in Ponge, Penone and Alÿs*, 'the surface of things [is] a site of a coming into form'.⁶ The coming into form of this project is within the re-enactment, the actualisation of the text.

The surface is this place for the encounter. Through our contact with the surface, we become aware of our limit and of the other. The surface addressed in the story is not only the second picture plane but the surface on which we feel things. It is not just how the image is transformed, but how the performance of the transformation can in turn change the viewer. This last protagonist in the work is not passive, but active in the construction of meanings. They are implicated in a chain of actions yet to be completed.



01:
Stills from the video 'Rehearsal Drawing 01'.

PROTAGONISTS

(In order of appearance)

NARRATOR

Young or old man but with a neutral look—He reads *La Perspective curieuse* in French, but he is neither Jean-François Nicéron nor trying to act like him. The text recited by the **NARRATOR** belongs to another time. He is remote from the action, removed; his distance from us is the distance between the past and our experience of it.

EYE_II

Woman 55-70 years old—Her name, **EYE_II**, refers to the necessity of both eyes to perceive depth. **EYE_II** is the main instigator of the project. After finding the treatise *La Perspective curieuse*, written by Jean-François Nicéron in 1638, she is setting up an apparatus to construct an anamorphic image. But, during the operation, she divides herself in two: **EYE_I** + **HAND_I**.

EYE_I

Young, confident man—Detached from **EYE_II**, **EYE_I** embodies the fixed eye looking into the single opening of the eyepiece. He portrays the Cartesian gaze and its desire to grasp and control vision. The eye of the beholder is an entity that dominates **HAND_I** in the conversation until **HAND_I** decides otherwise.

HAND_I

Young resolute woman with a dreamy look but a strong presence—**HAND_I** represents touch and how we perceive the world through our senses. The hand and the body are implied to be together. The name **HAND_I** is used because it represents the extremity of this entity. The hand is our desire to reach out when something moves us. The hands and the body possess the capacity to transform a feeling into an occupation of space.

DRAUGHTSWOMEN

They form a group of 7, mostly women. They are mute, but their presence expresses the multiplicity of perception. They move across the space, sometimes by themselves, but often all together. Their movement will reveal a pattern, providing important insights to the story. Going back and forth between the primary image and the second projected plane, they outline and brush past the edges and limits of the projected image. Thus, allowing us to trace the transition between the primary surface and the space created by the gesture of drawing the image on the new surface. They are also performing all kinds of gestures, from testing the tension in the thread for **HAND_I** to looking through the eyepiece with **EYE_I**, therefore interfering with the main protagonists' venture.

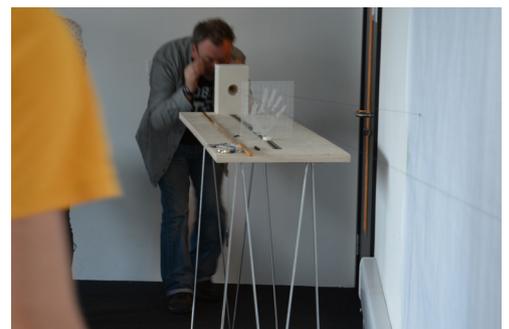
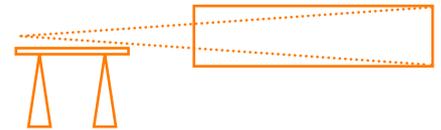
DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The quotes used in the text are kept in French to maintain and emphasise the distance we feel while reading a text from another era. In French, certain quotes from *La Perspective curieuse* have been modified to improve readability. The changes consist mainly in the adjustment of the verb tenses and have been made in respect to the original character as much as possible.

In the margins, the English translations provide only a comprehensive idea of the text, but do not entirely follow the form and syntax of the original text.

Italic for stage direction

[Orange indicates sections removed from the scenario but still relevant to the understanding of the narrative.]



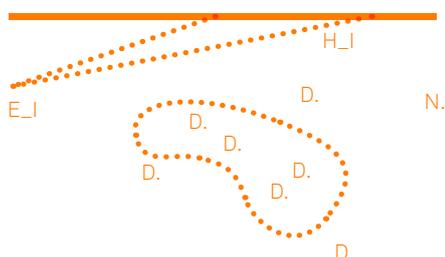
02;03;04:

Arrangement of the stage set and the projection apparatus;

An unknown man, maybe not part of the PhD programme, observed carefully and engaged with the others;

Researcher_01 took control of the anamorphic transformation of the hand—she could be **HAND_01**.

'take pleasure in seeing possibilities that lie beyond the effect of that upon which we meditate'



EYE_II
=
EYE_I HAND_I



05;06:
Stage plan ACT_II;
The anamorphic apparatus as installed.

SYNOPSIS

6th May, 2016. **EYE_II** is following instructions left by the Minim Jean-François Nicéron in *La Perspective curieuse*, a treatise dating from 1638, investigating its meaning. She aims to find what Nicéron intended when he told us to 'prendre plaisir de voir réussir au-delà de l'effet de ce qu'on a médité'.⁷ She wonders: what kinds of possibilities are lying beyond our expectation? Is it still possible to understand something written 380 years ago? According to an unknown source, even if the meaning was lost with time, fragments of meaning remain embedded in its directives—somewhere between the actual and the possible.

In the second chapter of the treatise, Proposition XI discloses an intricate technique for drawing an anamorphic image on a wall of a corridor. This scenario stems from that proposition and unfolds in three acts.

1. Act one opens with the voice of a distant narrator reciting a part of *La Perspective curieuse*, while **EYE_II** is setting up an apparatus. The first act unpacks the different gestures involved in anamorphic construction. It also discloses how the gaze of the beholder projected in space detaches itself from the body—**EYE_II** gradually becoming **EYE_I** and **HAND_I**. Since Descartes (a contemporary of Nicéron), the mind's eye dominates objective tools of representation as exemplified in the perspectival method by the search for accuracy in depicting the real. Act one ends at the ultimate extension of the technique, where the eye can no longer draw nor the hand see. Only the tension in a thread links **EYE_I**, the beholder, to the drawing hand, **HAND_I**.

2. In the second act, through the thread, **HAND_I** can feel **EYE_I**, but she can't see what he perceives. Following the fine thread, and guided by the instruction of **EYE_I**, **HAND_I** starts marking points on the projected surface. Point by point, threads appearing in space, emerging from the eyepiece and end, pinned, on a second surface. The dialogue between **EYE_I** and **HAND_I** is slowly defining a space. What is the nature of that space? Is it possible to occupy such a space? On the second plane, **HAND_I** connects and extrapolates the constellation of points into lines. Gradually, a contour appears on the newly formed receptive surface. Act two closes with **HAND_I** murmuring 'I am scared – it looks monstrous'.

3. In act three, **HAND_I** and **DRAUGHTSWOMEN** are facing the deformed outline. The drawing has reached a four-meter length and one-meter height. The change of scale disrupts the understanding of the final image. Moving closer and withdrawing from the second picture plane **HAND_I** and **DRAUGHTSWOMEN** try to make sense of this drawing. While **EYE_I** at its original position still perceives the primary image, **DRAUGHTSWOMEN** keep drawing to fill the gap in the drawing.

The story is about how a distant text or image resonates in the present through its materialisation in the movement of the different bodies in space. It also recounts the impossibility of fully grasping the past and the necessity of presence. After all, anamorphic imaging is concerned with the actualisation of the image in the present. The story ends as a failed attempt to capture the elusive possibilities beyond invoked by Nicéron, because the significance remains in the gesture itself, in the re-enactment of gesture.

SCENARIO
PART 1

The play opens with the voice of the narrator. He is sitting apart from the group and is recounting the instructions from 'La Perspective curieuse'. EYE_II is also present. She examines and reflects on the treatise out loud.

NARRATOR

«La science de la perspective est la première en dignité, et la plus excellente de toutes, puisqu'elle s'occupe à considérer les effets de la lumière, qui donne la beauté à toutes les choses sensibles: et que par ce moyen l'on trace si à propos des lignes sur un plan donné, qu'elles expriment des figures solides qui trompent les yeux, et qui déçoivent quasi le jugement et la raison. En effet l'artifice de la peinture consiste particulièrement à faire paraître en relief ce qui n'est figuré qu'à plat.» (Niceron, p.3)

EYE_II is looking at the treatise and the drawings of Niceron on a long table. Pensively, she talks to herself.

EYE_II

EYE_II points at a drawing in La Perspective curieuse.

Trick and deceive the eye. If perspective is the illusion of depth on a flat surface, then what does anamorphic construction represent?

NARRATOR

«Second livre: Auquel sont déclarés les moyens de construire plusieurs sortes de figures appartenant à la vision droite, lesquelles hors de leur point sembleront difformes et sans raisons, et vues de leur point, paraîtront bien proportionnées.» (Niceron, p.89)

EYE_II

According to the second book, anamorphosis is the construction of an image still belonging to the realm of vision. The deformation happens by the displacement of its viewing point.

She pauses to look at the example of the chair.

When, or where, is a chair not a chair anymore?

NARRATOR

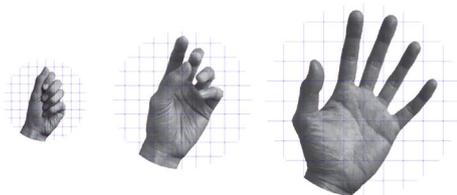
«Après avoir dressé l'orthographe de la chaise, comme celle-ci EFGH, élever la ligne horizontale fort haut par-dessus la ligne-terre, et y mettre le point principal vis-à-vis du milieu de cette orthographe, et un peu à côté, de l'espace QR, le point de distance [...] elle réussira si difforme, que si elle n'est vue de son point, elle sera méconnaissable.» (Niceron, p.93)

The science of perspective is the first in dignity, and the most excellent of all, because it encompasses the effect of light, which gives beauty to all perceptible things: this technique allowed the lines we traced on a certain plane to express solid shapes that trick the eye, and almost deceived judgement and reason. Indeed, the artifice of painting consists particularly in making appear in relief what is illustrated on a flat surface.

Second Book: About the construction of diverse types of figures belonging to the direct vision, and which seen outside their viewpoint would seem deformed and without reason, and when seen from their view point will appear well proportioned.

After having drawn the orthography of the chair, like in EFGH, raise the horizontal line far above the ground line, and put the principal point in the middle of the orthography, and next to the space QR, the distance point. Thus, the image will be completely deformed. When viewed from outside its point it will be unrecognisable.

Our principal intention in this treatise is to discuss those figures, which out of their view point appears as something completely other than what they represent in effect, when viewed from their specific view point.



First proposition: While the apex of the pyramid remains the same, where the image always appears (the perpendicular plane = base of the pyramid), some changes happen when the base is cut differently.

Now, we need to hold a thread perpendicular to where the eye is positioned, with a nail, a ring or

EYE_II

The horizon is lifted, and the distant point is closer to the vanishing point. If depth is not receding within the picture plane in the anamorphic image, is depth disappearing, or is it displaced somewhere else?

NARRATOR

«Notre principal dessein est de traiter en cette œuvre de ces figures, lesquelles hors de leur point montrent en apparence tout autre chose que ce qu'elles représentent en effet, quand elles sont vues précisément de leur point.» (Niceron, p.89)

EYE_II is looking at the primary image to deform. There are three images of a hand deploying itself: from the closed position to completely extended. She decides to choose the open position.

EYE_II

Beyond the first appearance of the image would lie the apparition of another image, another signification within the drawing itself when viewed from a different position.

She pauses and fixes a point in space. Then she moves sideways to observe whether there is a difference in perception

Therefore, following the displacement of the viewing point, the depth is experienced in front of the picture plane, in the space of the real.

NARRATOR

«Premiere proposition: Tandis que le même sommet de la pyramide visuelle demeure le même objet, où la même image paraît toujours, quelques changements qui arrivent à la base coupée différemment.» (Niceron, p.90)

EYE_II

If the pyramid of vision is cut diagonally that would allow the occupation of the space of vision. Moreover, if the perpendicular cut in the pyramid of vision represents one moment in time, a diagonal cut could mean different temporal events. [Because the diagonal cuts through multiple planes of perception it would be possible to capture various moments in time, like the mural painting of St-Francis de Paola by the Minim Friar Emmanuel Maignan in Santa Trinità dei Monti]

Pause.

EYE_II

Where should we start? Here?

She is hesitant because of the uncertainty of beginnings.

EYE_II sets up the apparatus: she looks at a plan, adjusts the table and installs the primary image on its holder on the table.

NARRATOR

«Car pour lors il faut user du filet, en le faisant tenir dans la perpendiculaire AR où est le point de l'oeil, soit avec un clou, un anneau, ou autrement, de sorte qu'on puisse le

mener par tous les points du mur V X Y Z, où l'on veut décrire la perspective, afin d'y marquer les petits carrés semblables au prototype B C D E.» (Niceron, p.123)

EYE_II manipulates the eyepiece, it is a heavy object. She tries to adjust it on the table.

EYE_II

Niceron recommended using a ring attached to a string. But, this eyepiece is unwieldy. It is so massive that it completely prevents any alternative way of looking at the primary image. Now, it is like looking through a keyhole.

EYE_II first gives a swift glance into the little opening. **EYE_I** and **HAND_I** slowly enter the space of the play, but they stay in the shadows.

EYE_II

My gaze is projected into this little aperture. There is a strange feeling, as if the thickness of the eyepiece made me doubt my own perception.

To ensure what she perceives is true, she keeps on following the instructions and proceeds with the next step.

NARRATOR

«[...] au carré du point A, en commençant par la ligne t f i, et en appliquant au point l un bâton ou une corde, afin que le plomb d g, ou b c qu'on y attachera, puisse être mené ou bien arrêté à tel point du bâton i l que l'on voudra.» (Niceron, p.123)

EYE_II is handling a thread with a weight on one end. She carefully threads the free end into the eyepiece first, and then through the first point on the panel of the primary image. The thread end is now dangling. She keeps switching between the primary image frame, the eyepiece and the second plane of projection.

NARRATOR

«Il est donc évident que le filet A I L F fait la fonction du rayon optique.» (Niceron, p.124)

EYE_II

If the thread corresponds to the trajectory of my sight, I need more tension to straighten the thread.

EYE_I and **HAND_I** slowly come closer to **EYE_II**. **EYE_I** and **HAND_I** are close to each other, but **HAND_I** is behind **EYE_I**. They are facing the same direction, but **EYE_I** is hiding the view of **HAND_I**.

The table is at an uncomfortable height. **EYE_II** must bend to look through the eyepiece and then she holds the pose, as if frozen.

any other device to reach all the points on the wall V X Y Z. This is the wall where we would like to draw the perspective, and mark small squares similarly to the prototype B C D E.



At the corner of point A, beginning by the line t f i, and by fixing at point l a stick or a thread, attach the weight d g or b c, so it can be brought to any point of the stick i l that we wish.

[This instruction is problematic in French as well as in English, the correspondence with the language and the reference letters in the original schema from Niceron are obscure.]

Therefore, it is clear that the thread A I L F acts as an optical ray.





EYE_II is suspended in time. **DRAUGHTSWOMEN** start dispersing into space in a scattered way, expressing the multiplication of the point of view. During this action, **EYE_I** takes the position of **EYE_II**. **HAND_I** is still behind **EYE_I**, but the **DRAUGHTSWOMEN** separate **HAND_I** from the back of **EYE_I** and bring her in front of him, in front of the primary image, and even further to the extension of the thread. Act one ends with **EYE_I** and **HAND_I** at either ends of the thread with a troubled look.

SCENARIO PART 2

Act 2 starts in the dark, we can just hear the faint voices of **HAND_I** and **EYE_I**. [After being projected in space **HAND_I** is disoriented, she has never ventured by herself without **EYE_I**]

HAND_I

I can't see you, but I can feel you.

The voices convey the illusion that it is coming from multiple directions. The text is repeated and slow, as if the shattering of the image had fragmented the understanding of the text.

EYE_I

Is it you at the end of the thread?

HAND_I

I don't know where I am.

EYE_I

Follow my voice, the thread will guide us.

*The light is coming back, **HAND_I** pulls gently on the thread.*

***EYE_I** pulls back in return.*

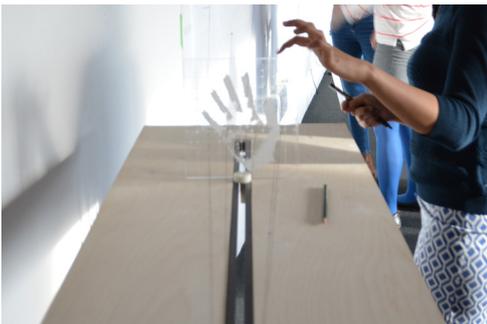
EYE_I

I can see a hand.

*Pause. **HAND_I** touching the thread.*

HAND_I

I remember a hand.



10;11:
Looking through the eyepiece;
One of the hand-gestures during the workshop. The participants touched the thread gently throughout to test its tension.

The NARRATOR comes into the space of the play. The voice, which was previously an absent body, became embodied with the actualisation of the text.

NARRATOR

«Or après avoir marqué dans l'espace a F h 8 lignes qui aboutissent au point F, pour représenter celles du prototype BCDE, qui divisent la hauteur B E, il faut ramener le plomb D g au bâton i l, pour décrire la perpendiculaire proche de la figure L à gauche.» (Niceron, p.124)

The DRAUGHTSWOMEN are divided in 2 groups of 3. One group is close to EYE_I trying to look inside the eyepiece and manipulating the primary image. The other is helping HAND_I to trace the grid as required by EYE_I. They pull out other threads to delineate the grid.

HAND_I starts drawing the grid on the oblique surface.

A single DRAUGHTSWOMAN is apart from the group. She supervises the work, going back and forth between the eyepiece and the second picture plane. She looks closer to the drawing but also withdraws further to have an overview of the ensemble. The grid is all laid out.

EYE_I

«D'où l'on peut voir que sur le mur V X Y Z il n'y a lieu que pour y décrire la perspective de la partie de l'objet comprise dans l'espace q C D r, & qu'il n'y a point d'espace pour y décrire ce qui est compris dans le dernier ordre de carrés B q r E. Donc pour achever l'image B C D E, il faut mettre le plomb en b c & décrire la ligne m n avec le filet sur le plan S Y Z T, afin que le dernier ordre de carrés soit représenté en m a h n.» (Niceron, p.124)

Looking at the grid.

HAND_I

I am not sure they are squares. The farthest one is more like an elongated trapezium. [As time passes, distance increases.]

EYE_I

I can't see it.

DRAUGHTSWOMEN are struggling with the panel with the primary image

NARRATOR

« Soit [donc, en la 33 planche] le filet attaché à un anneau au point A, où l'oeil est situé, & que le bâton i l soit perpendiculaire au mur sur lequel on veut commencer la perspective, et qu'on attache encore un autre filet délié b c avec le poids c, et avec un noeud coulant K au bâton i l, afin de pouvoir le hausser ou baisser, et même approcher où d'éloigner le plomb du mur, suivant la nécessité. Le tableau doit être

After marking the line reaching point F in the space a F h 8, to represent the line of the prototype BCDE, which divides the height B E, we must bring back the weight D g at the stick i l to describe the perpendicular close to the letter L on the left.

From what we can see of the wall V X Y Z, there is space only to draw the part of the figure between the space q C D r. There is no space to describe the last part of the image between the square B q r E. Therefore, to complete the image B C D E, we need to install the weight in the axis of b c and draw the line m n with the thread on the plane S Y Z T. Then, the last row of squares will be represented in m a h n.

The thread is fixed at the ring in point A, where the eye is located, and the stick i l. Then, on the stick i l perpendicular to the wall on which the perspective is to be drawn, attach by a slipknot the thread b c with the weight c to be able to raise

or lower the stick as well as to bring it forward or further away according to need. The frame must be like a door with two hinges, in y, and one lower, to allow it to be open, or oriented on the line s t by putting it perpendicular to the wall, as one desires.

comme une porte qui a deux gonds en y, et plus bas, afin de pouvoir être ouvert et tourné à direction sur la ligne S t, en le mettant perpendiculaire au mur, ou comme l'on voudra.» (Niceron, p.124)

[Anamorphic images act as a hinge between the image and the projected, the real and the imagined, and in this section, the body oscillates between these two types of vision.]

HAND_I and **DRAUGHTWOMEN** extend a thread for each point, from the eyepiece to the primary image frame, stretching the thread, touching the surfaces. They mark the point by puncturing the paper gently with a pin. Next, they loop it around the pin to keep the tension.

Here? **HAND_I**

There **EYE_I**

Where? **HAND_I**

In that place **EYE_I**

I can't see. **HAND_I**

*The section between the moment **HAND_I** says 'Here' to 'I can't see' can be restated as many times as the performers desire to accentuate the idea of repetition and the impossibility to locate the points with exactitude.*

Pause

I am lost. **HAND_I**

Follow the points. [The points on the surface are like indices of another body, or as Jean-Luc Nancy would describe, our encounter with the other.]⁹

HAND_I starts extrapolating lines to link the points. She is hesitant, and sometimes traces over certain lines twice.

HAND_I
There is too much space in-between the points.



*Because of the expansion of scale, **HAND_1** is required to move; to complete the drawing she takes more breathes. She is drawing with her whole body, bending, arching across the surface.*

HAND_I draws at the farthest area of the drawing

HAND_I

I am too far.

Pause.

It is getting blurry, I think I am forgetting.

Pause.

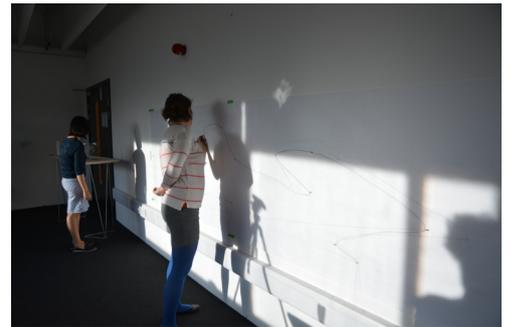
I can't remember the event in-between.

***HAND_I** traces the outline of what **EYE_I** perceives, she feels that through that process she can find him again. Like in Pliny's History of Painting, she traces the contour to remember. But what she sees disturbs her.*

*The solitary **DRAUGHTSWOMAN** brings **HAND_I** away from the drawing to have an overview. **HAND_I** is reticent, she touches the surface of the drawing. **HAND_I** pauses a moment and observes the drawing she worked on with the **DRAUGHTSWOMEN**.*

HAND_I

I am scared, it looks monstrous.



SCENARIO
PART 3

NARRATOR shifts back into this disembodied position outside the stage.

HAND_I

It doesn't look like anything I know.

EYE_I

Where are you going?

Still looking through the narrow opening of the eyepiece, EYE_I is now just watching HAND_I as a spectator. HAND_I is touching the drawing and the thread pensively. HAND_I is not listening to EYE_I anymore

NARRATOR

«Lorsque la perspective est achevée de simple traits, le peintre doit tellement y appliquer les couleurs que ce qui doit être vu plus loin soit moins coloré, et plus confus et ce qui doit être vu plus proche, reçoive des couleurs plus vives, et plus distinctes; ce que l'expérience fera mieux concevoir qu'un discours plus long.»
(Niceron, p.125)

When the perspective is completed with the main lines, the painter should apply colour to it accordingly: the elements seen from afar are less colourful and more diffuse, and the elements that are meant to be seen closer, should be more colourful and clear. The experience of it will be better than a longer explanation.

The DRAUGHTSWOMEN keep drawing and adding details to the mural. HAND_I comes closer and draws with them. Together they try to hide their first drawing.



NOTES

- 1 Frascari, Marco. 1991. *Monsters of Architecture, Anthropomorphism in Architectural Theory*. Savage, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, p.10.
- 2 Carson, Anna. 1986. *Eros and the Bittersweet*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, p.152.
- 3 Baltrušaitis, Jurgis. 1977. *Anamorphic Art*, trans. W.J. Strachan. Cambridge, UK: Chadwyck-Healey, p.36.
- 4 See Thi Phuong-Trâm Nguyen. 2016. 'Anamorphosis: An Inquiry into the Unknown' in *Drawing Futures*, Laura Allen and Caspar Luke Pearson (eds.) London: UCL Press, p.102. For complete information about the Minims and the development of anamorphosis see: Massey, Lyle. 2007. *Picturing Space, Displacing Bodies: Anamorphosis in Early Modern Theories of Perspective*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.
- 5 Nicéron, Jean-François. 1638. *La Perspective curieuse*, p.1.
- 6 Malt, Johanna. 2013. 'Leaving traces: surface contact in Ponge, Penone and Alÿs' in *Word & Image*, Vol.29 No.1 (March 2013), p.94. Available at <<https://doi.org/10.1080/02666286.2012.746265>> (accessed 5th May, 2018).
- 7 Nicéron, Jean-François. 1638. *La Perspective curieuse*, p.1.
- 8 Nancy, Jean-Luc. 2008. '58 Indices on the Body', in *Corpus*. Translated by Richard A. Rand. New York: Fordham University Press, pp.150-60.

FIGURES

All of the photographs included in this piece were taken by the author, with assistance from Anna Ulrikke Anderson and Sevcan Ercan.

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