

Internal Visibility on Differential Imagery Experience and Artistic Production

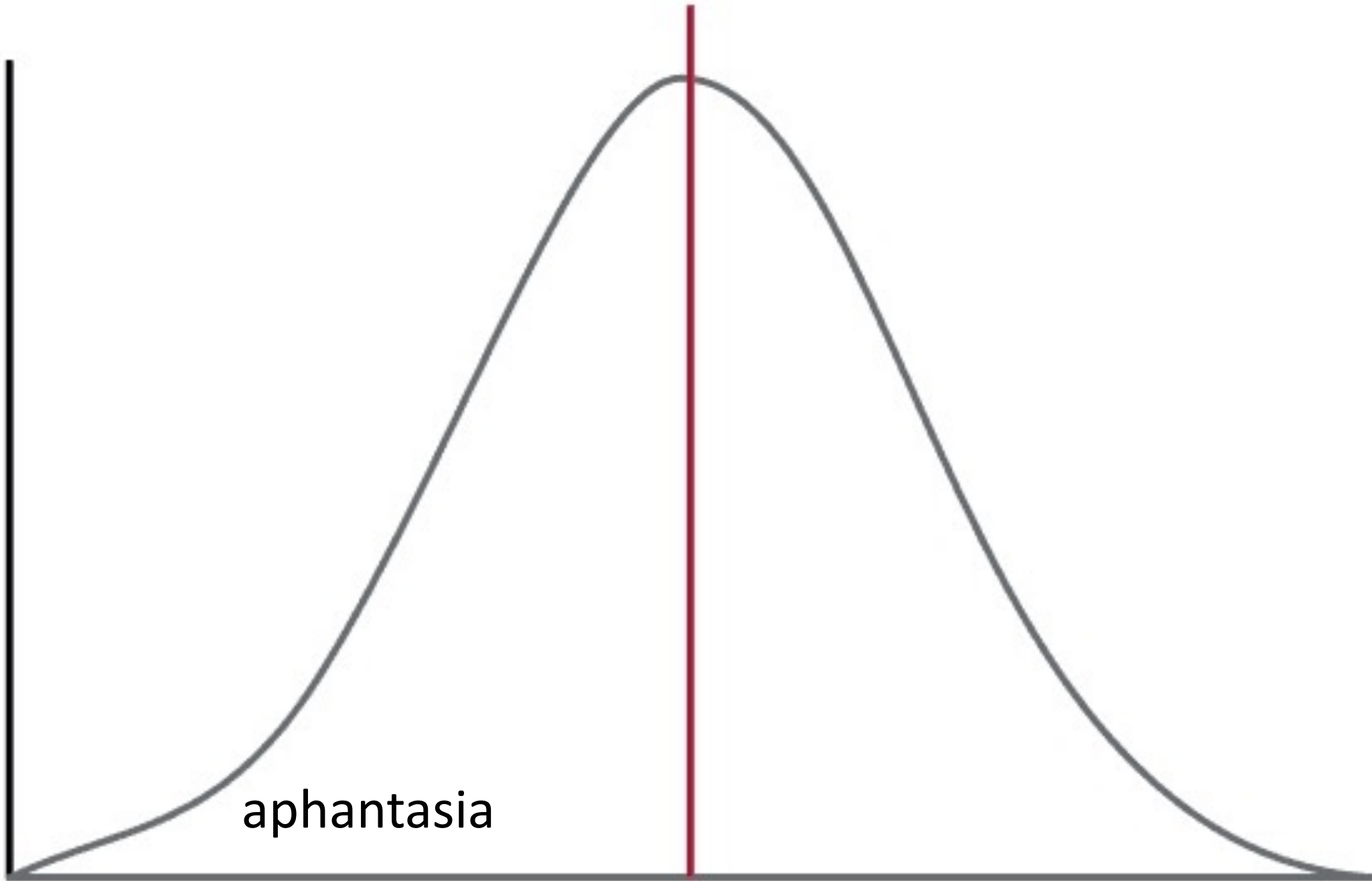
Dr Matthew MacKisack



VVIQ

For items 1-4, think of some relative or friend whom you frequently see (but who is not with you at present) and consider carefully the picture that comes before your mind's eye.

1. The exact contour of face, head, shoulders and body _____
2. Characteristic poses of head, attitudes of body etc. _____
3. The precise carriage, length of step etc., in walking _____
4. The different colours worn in some familiar clothes _____



Daan Tweehuysen, 'Ginger',
oil on canvas, 50x50cm, 2017



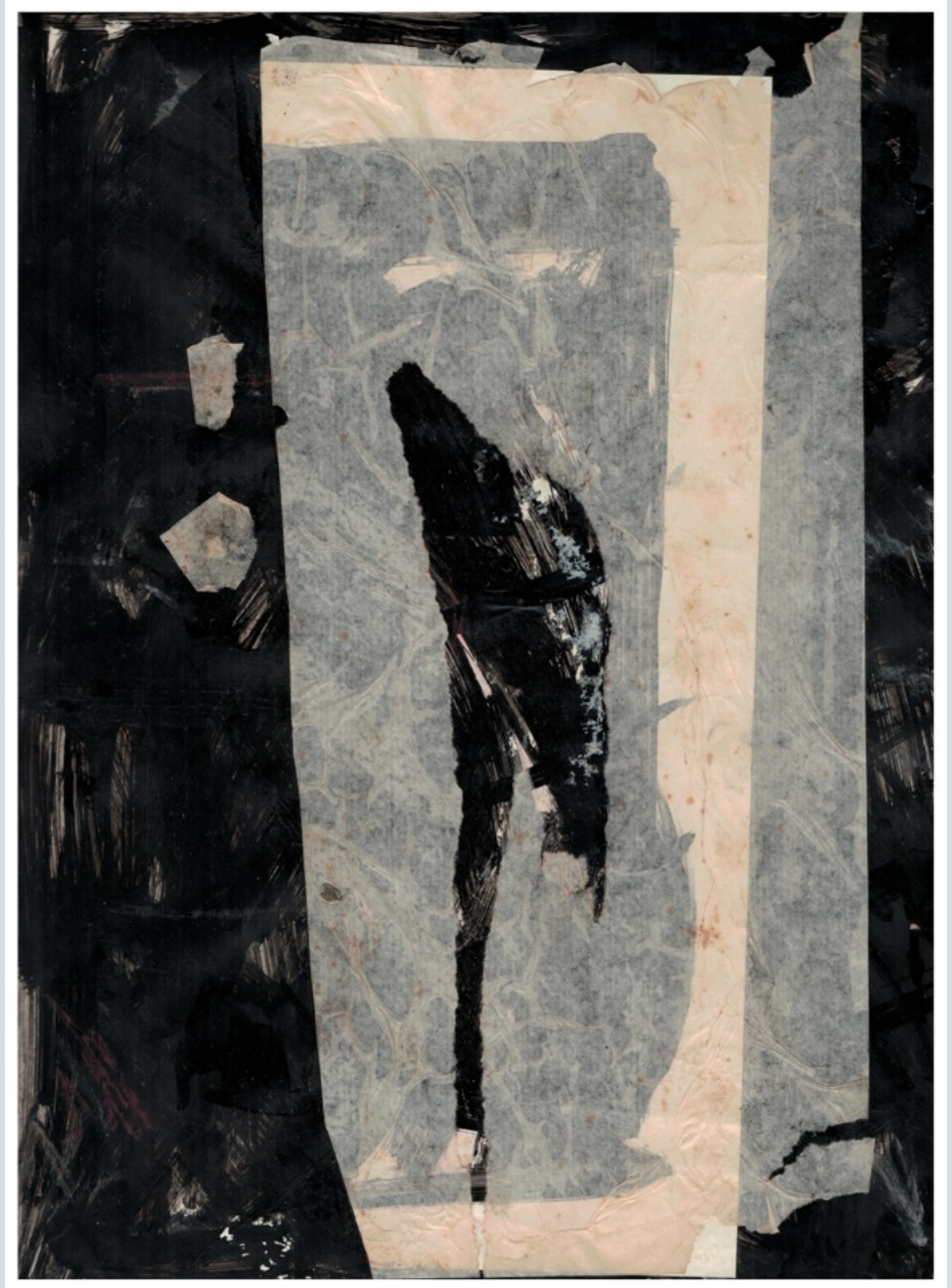
Stephanie Brown, 'The Fall of a King',
acrylic on board, 40cm x 50cm, 2013

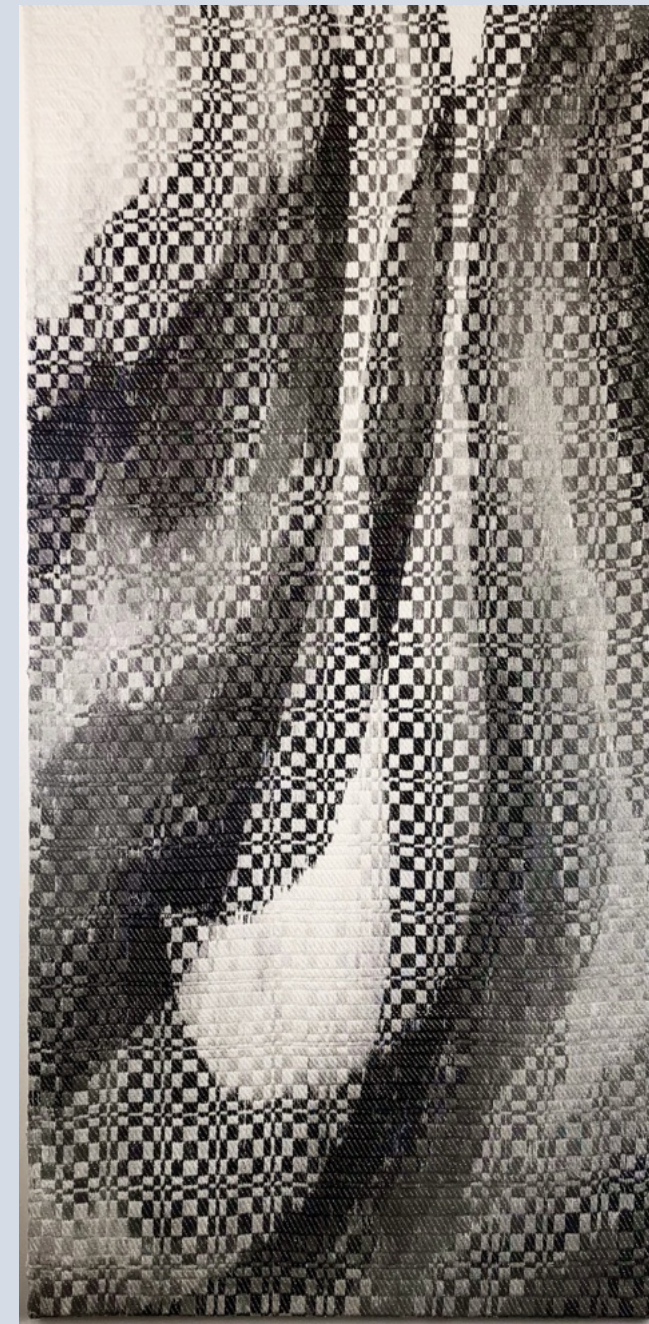


Michael Chance, 'Bacchus Walk',
oil on board, 122cm x 92cm, 2016



Susan Baquie, 'The Prahran friend's brother #4',
mixed media collage on paper, 44cm x 54 cm, 1991

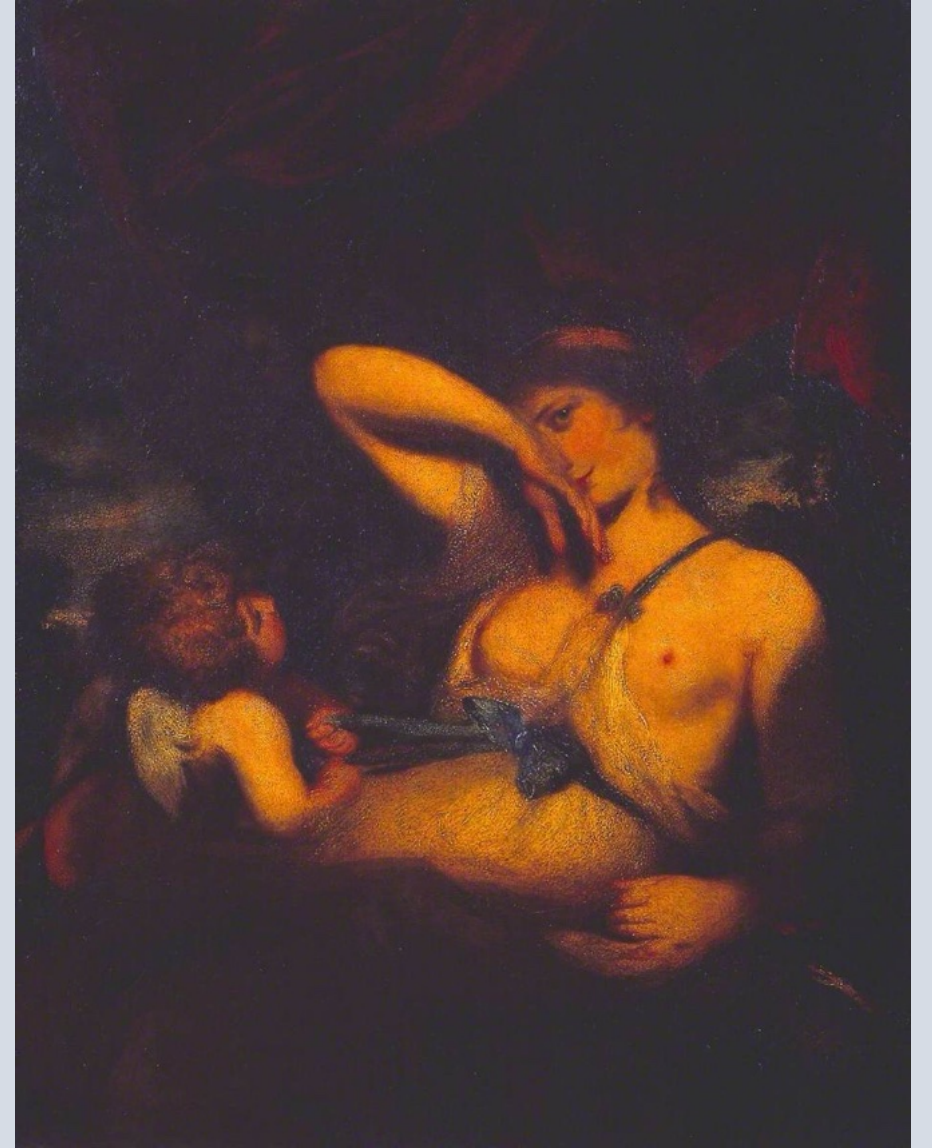




Melissa Campbell, 'Honey',
painted linen yarn, 57cm x 121cm x 2.5cm, 2014

‘Whenever a story is related, every man forms a picture in his mind of the action and the expression of the persons employed. The power of representing this mental picture in canvas is what we call invention in a painter’

Joshua Reynolds, Discourse IV, in ‘Discourses on Art’, 1771

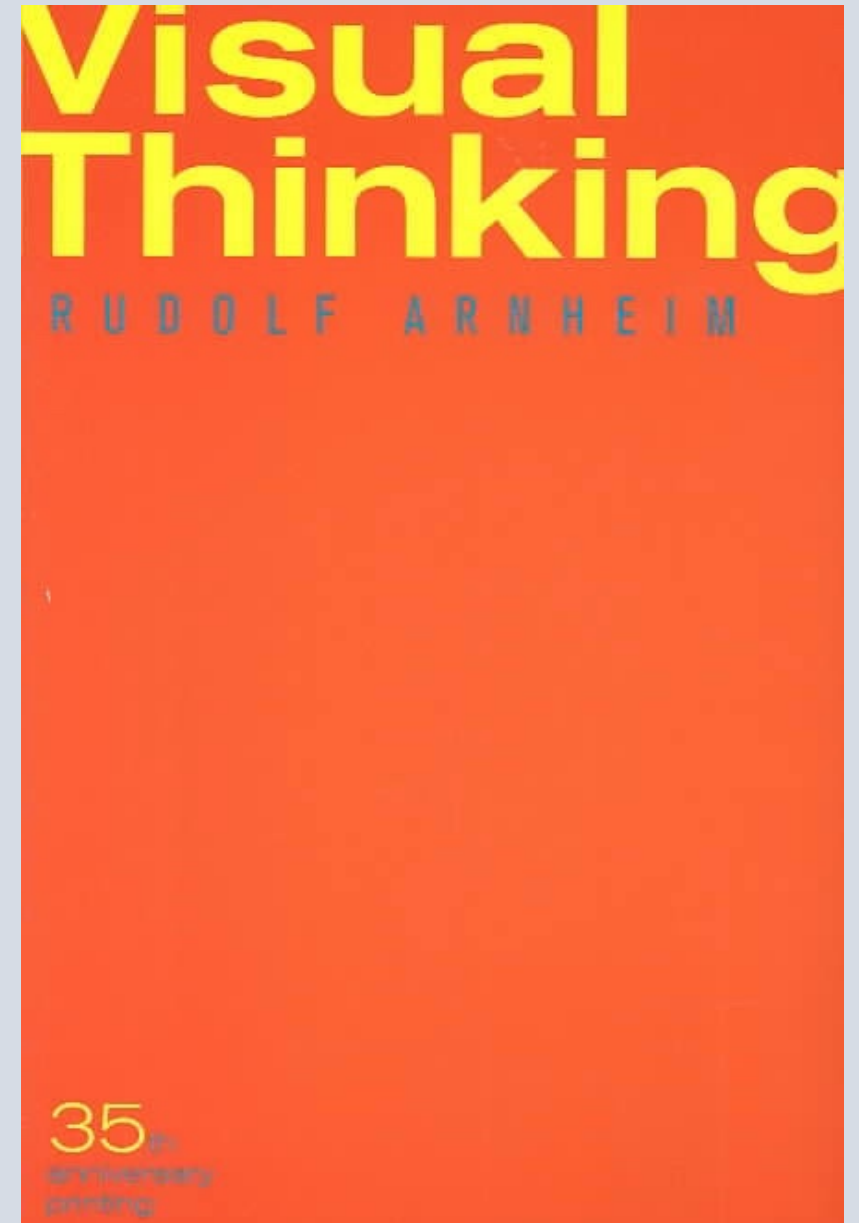


Joshua Reynolds, 'The Snake in the Grass', 1784

‘[I]f you ask [the artist] from what model he is drawing he may deny convincingly that he has anything like an explicit picture of an animal in his mind.’

The ‘operation take[s] place in the perceived outside world, on the drawing board: as the lines and colours appear, they look right or wrong to the draftsman, and they themselves seem to determine what he must do about them.’

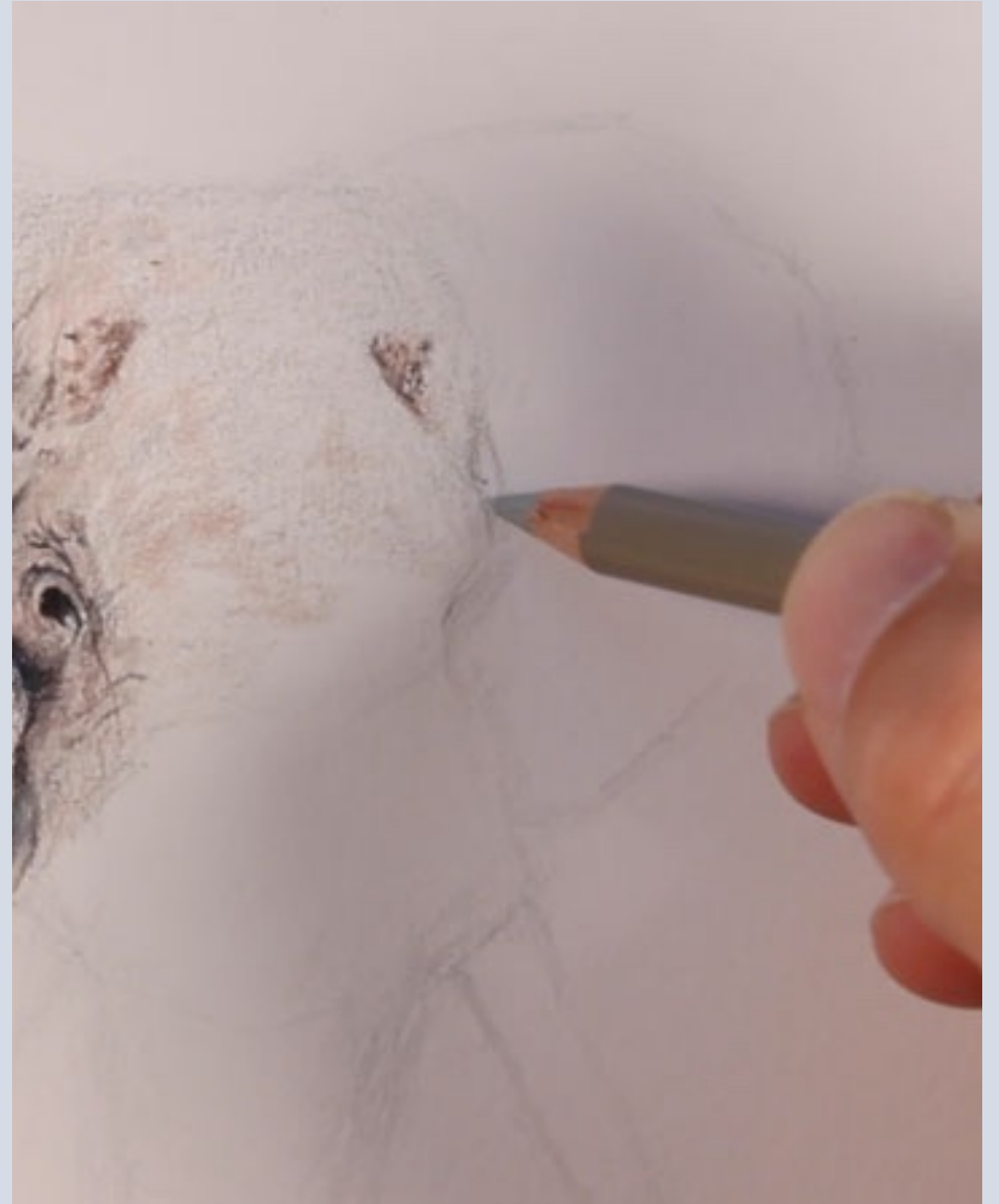
Rudolf Arnheim, *Visual Thinking*, 1969



‘[When sketching, the artist] perceptually, not merely imaginatively, re-encounters visual forms, which she can then inspect, tweak, and re-sketch’.

The sketch pad is thus part of a ‘unified, extended cognitive system’.

Andy Clark, *Natural-Born Cyborgs: Minds, Technologies, and the Future of Human Intelligence*, 2003



drawing is perceptual - aphantasia is no impediment

the aphantasic *needs* the pencil and paper to visualise

externalising the mind's contents /

extending the mind's working =

2 different ways of art-making, based (at least partly) on imagery experience

thank you

Extreme Imagination - *inside the mind's eye*

Tramway, Glasgow 10 January – 7 March 2019

Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter 30 March – 22 June 2019

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