

Symmetry: Culture and Science

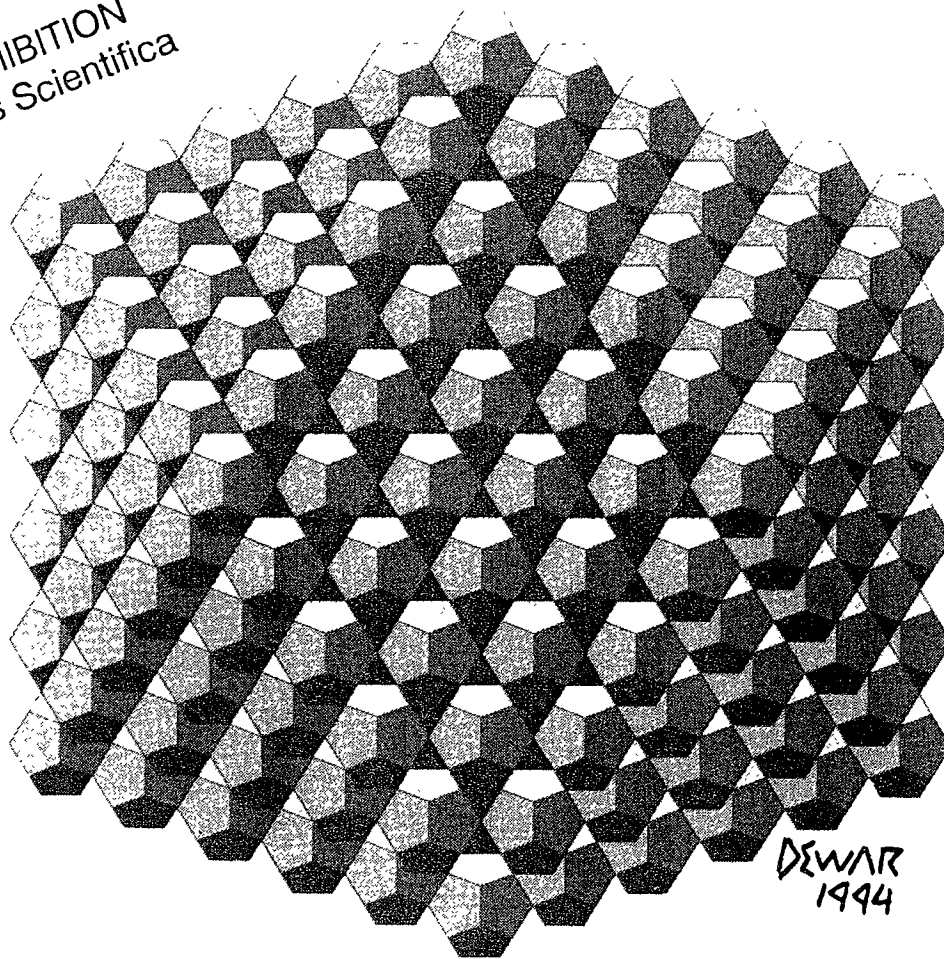
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POSSIBILITIES OF IMAGE-EXPRESSING BY MIRRORS

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JAPAN 343

Mirrors are instruments to create symmetrical shapes. A mirror is originally a tool for mirroring a face or a figure of a person. However, today we use it in many form of art and design. These works by mirrors give unique expressions to us. Especially, because of the various functions of a mirror and their wonderful visual effects of the image, many artists are eager to use mirrors in their works. I believe the basic study creating by a mirror is very useful to art and design education. So, I would like to make the common functions of mirror instruments clear. By examining the results in art and design, I have come to see the fundamental and basic characteristics of mirrors.

Well, are there any revolutionally new tools with mirror function in this high technology age? Through researching this problem, we can expand the category of mirrors. The newly founded functions in the new type of tools will enlarge the possibilities of expressions in art and design.



Fig.1 a V type mirror composition

a. plane surface mirrors (multiple uses)

By using them multiply, plane surface mirrors create very interesting symmetric shapes.

a-1 a V-type mirror composition (Fig.2)

a-2 a ψ -type mirror composition (Fig.1)

a-3 a Δ -type mirror composition

a-4 a parallel type mirror composition (Fig.3)

a-5 a relief mirror composition (Fig.4)

a-6 a pyramid mirror composition (Fig.5)

a-7 a half-mirror

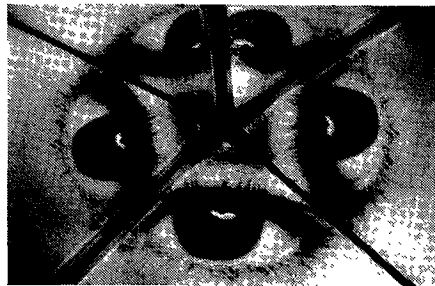


Fig.2 a V-type mirror composition

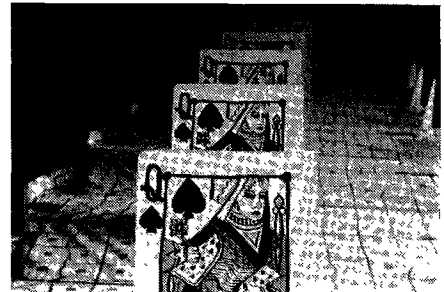


Fig.3 a parallel type mirror composition

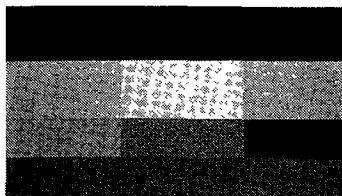


Fig.4-b-1 a colour board

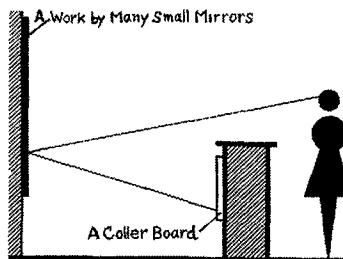


Fig.4- b-2 transmitting a colour



Fig.4- a-5 a girl appeared from many small mirrors

b. creations by curved mirrors

By using curved mirrors, we can have various sorts of deformed shapes.
(dissymmetry)

- b-1 an inside surface reflection of two cylinder mirrors (on parallel lines, see Fig.6)
- b-2 an outside surface reflection of a cylinder mirror (on parallel lines, see Fig.7)
- b-3 a sphere-surface mirror composition (see Fig.8)
- b-4 a cone-surface mirror composition (Fig.9)
- b-5 a wave type mirror composition
- b-6 another type of curved mirror composition
- b-7 an anamorphosis



Fig.6 inside surface reflection of two cylinder mirrors



Fig.5 a dog appeared in a tree

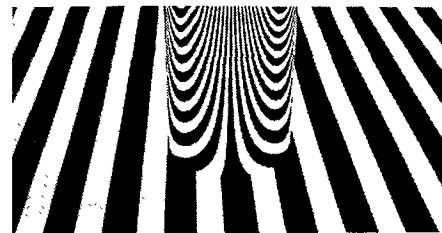


Fig.7 outside surface reflection of a cylinder mirror

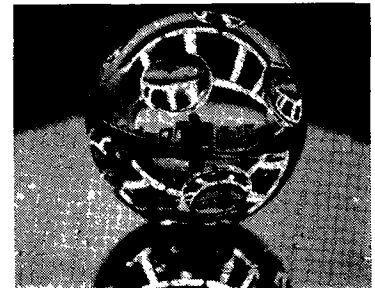


Fig.8 a sphere-surface mirror composition

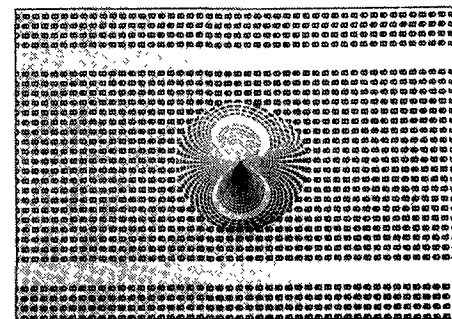


Fig.9 a white 8 appeared on many small black 8s

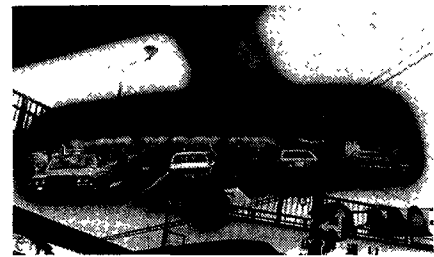


Fig.11 a back mirror of a car is transmitting shapes

c. conclusion-1: functions and characteristics in the creation by mirrors

(i) the functions of mirrors in art and design

c-1 composing shapes (Fig.10)

c-2 revealing shapes
 c-3 transmitting shapes } (a back-mirror of a car, see Fig.11)

c-4 enlarging space

c-5 complicated shapes

c-6 increasing shapes

c-7 transforming shapes

c-8 immediatly making shapes

(ii) the characteristics of mirrors in art and design

c-9 producing images ... c-1, 4, 5

c-10 creating bilateral symmetry (plane surface mirror) ... c-2, 3, 6 (Fig.12)

c-11 creating transformed shapes (curved mirror) ... c-7

c-12 immediatly making shapes ... c-8

d. conclusion-2: new types of mirrors in the high-technology age

d-1 televisions and video cameras (Fig.13)

d-2 hologram (Fig.14)



Fig.10 composing shapes
 (a poster of a diver
 in a window of which
 glass is reflecting
 the surroundings)



Fig.12 increasing shapes (bilateral symmetry)

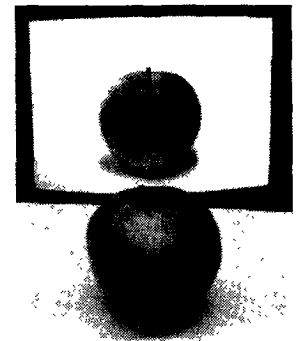


Fig.13 televisions and video cameras
 make the same shape instantly



Fig.14 an image by hologram
 (composing a shape)