

The Lovely Vanna???

Description:

Two pictures of Vanna White, the hostess from the TV show *Wheel of Fortune*, are mounted side-by-side on a rotating board. When the pictures are upside-down, most people see them as identical:



When the pictures are right-side up, one image appears "gorgeous" while the other appears "gruesome":



Purpose:

This exhibit illustrates that we often “see what we believe rather than believe what we see.” We are conditioned to see things in a particular way and often even direct sensory evidence is unable to alter our perceptions. Since an upside-down face is not a familiar sight, it is hard to notice that one

picture has obviously been altered. It's only when the photos are turned right-side up, and the view is more familiar, that the differences in the photos can be clearly seen.

THE LOVELY VANNA???



TO DO AND NOTICE

Watch Vanna as she rotates. What makes her turn from gorgeous to gruesome?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Since an upside-down face is not a familiar sight, you may not have noticed that one of the pictures has been altered. It's only when the photos are turned right-side up, and the view is more familiar, that you are able to notice the difference.

CONSTRUCTION DIRECTIONS FOR

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(Note: This exhibit can be constructed using a computer graphics program. We give directions for making the exhibit from photographs.)

Supplies Needed:

- A copy of the Vanna images provided below or two **identical** copies of a photograph of a face
- One single edged razor blade
- One mounting board or foam core board large enough to hold your photos side by side as shown.
- Glue for mounting the photos to the mounting board
- One small motor to slowly rotate the picture board
- A small block of wood for connecting the mounting board to the motor stem
- One ring stand and clamp

Instructions:

- Carefully cut three rectangles around the mouth and eyes (including the eyebrows) from one of the pictures.
- Glue the photo which is missing the eyes and mouth to the left side of your mounting board. Rotate each of the cut rectangles (containing the eyes and mouth) 180 degrees so that the mouth and eyes are upside down and glue them back onto the photo they were cut from.
- Glue the uncut photo to the right side of your mounting board.
- Attach the small block of wood to the center of the back of your mounting board.
- Attach the mounting board to the rotating part of your motor.
- Use a clamp to attach the motor to a ring stand.

Tips:

- Try to select photos which do not have heavy shadows on one side of the mouth or eyes. (Heavy shadows will cause the rectangles to show when they are rotated.)
- Be careful to cut perfect rectangles when you cut out the eyes and mouth.
- Battery-operated, slow rotating motors are sometimes available from grocery stores or liquor stores from their promotional displays. Ask your local store.

Note: Go on to next page for Vanna images.

