



London Review of Books, 1979

At the end of his life, the distinguished biologist C.H. Waddington took part in a discussion about the nature of mind. The circumstances were unusual. Waddington lay flat on his back, and his words were read from a prepared text by a friend. The discussion between him and the other two participants was lively: until, that is, there came a point when Waddington, having momentarily silenced his colleagues, abruptly left the room. The platform on which he was resting sank beneath him and his body was committed to the flames.

Gregory Bateson, if he had been present at the Edinburgh crematorium, would no doubt have felt sad at the death of his old friend. Yet he would surely have relished an event which in so many ways illustrated his own philosophical obsessions ... Waddington was dead, and yet in both body and mind he was still present in the room. Waddington's life was at an end, and yet his 'karma' (Bateson's word) would continue to rain down like ash on the mourners as they left the crematorium and is raining on this page right now.

KENNY

It seems to me that on the view that Waddington has put forward there would be nothing nonsensical about the supposition that this mug should be conscious.

WADDINGTON

I want to make a reply to some of the points just made by Kenny. Now, I am not a bit certain that the mug is not a little conscious. I said that I think you have to add to the definition of atoms something to do with consciousness, but I added that this consciousness is not going to be as highly evolved as ours . . . I am definitely not ruling out that there is some sort of thing allied to consciousness all through the world.

boenino
appearance

A study of
the relations
between
painting
and the
natural
sciences
in this
century

C.H.WADDINGTON



CONSCIOUSNESS
AS
ART

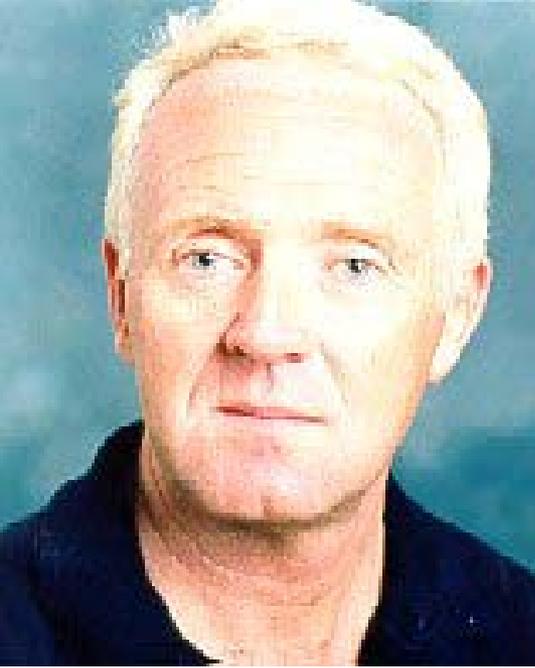
Our subjective experience of the
world may be like
a visit to a gallery where the artist
is our brain

By Nicholas Humphrey



H. Allen Orr:

I share the sense of mystery here. Brains and neurons obviously have everything to do with consciousness but how such mere objects can give rise to the eerily different phenomenon of subjective experience seems utterly incomprehensible.

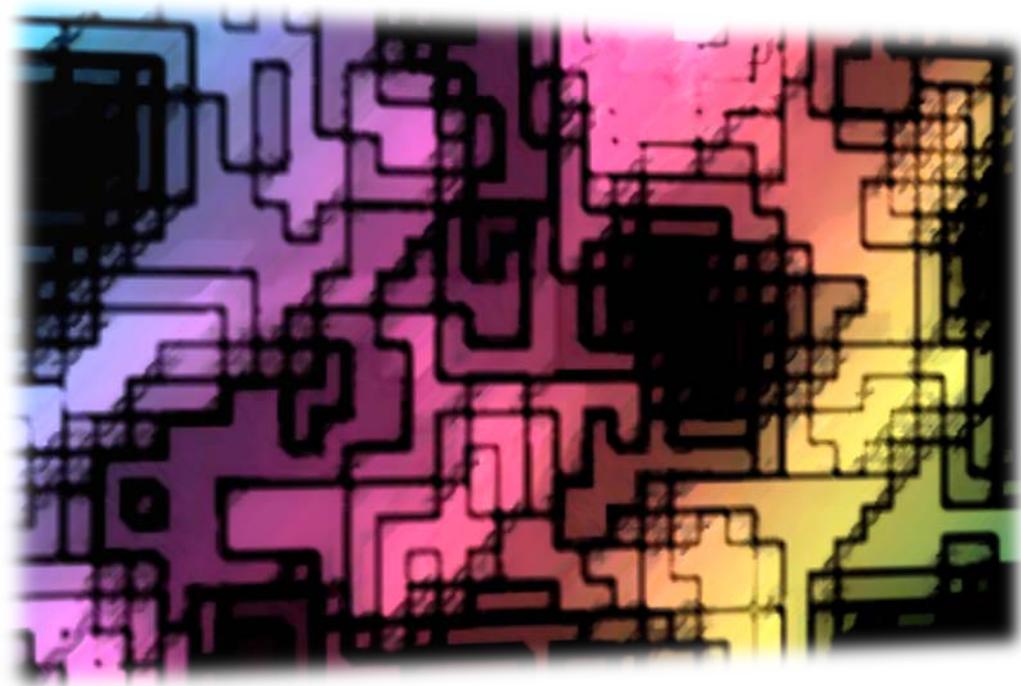


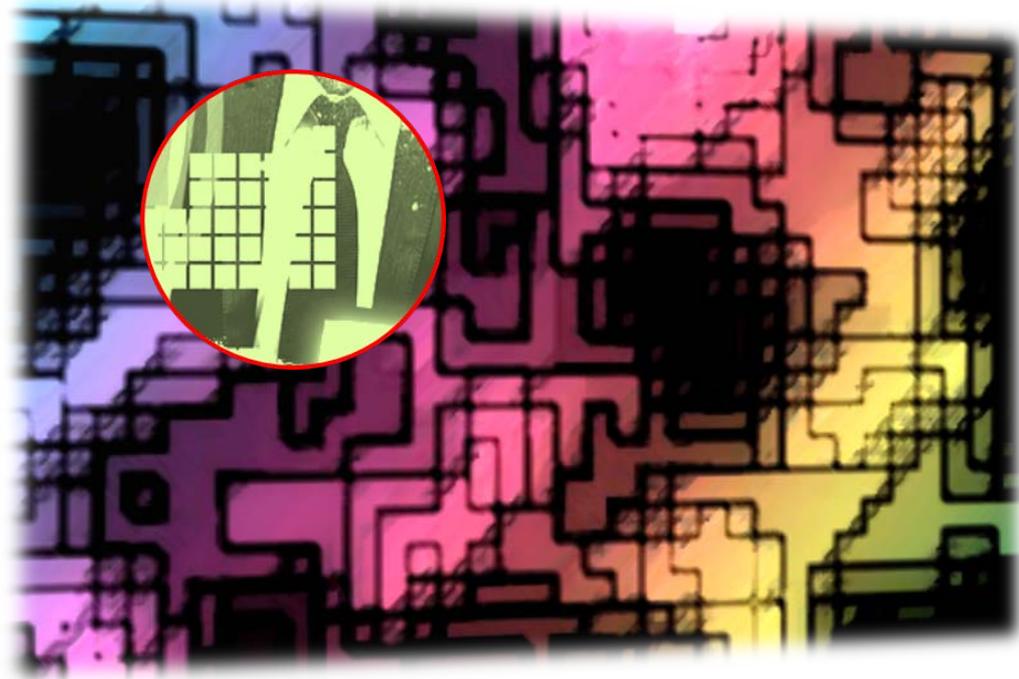
Colin McGinn, 1996:

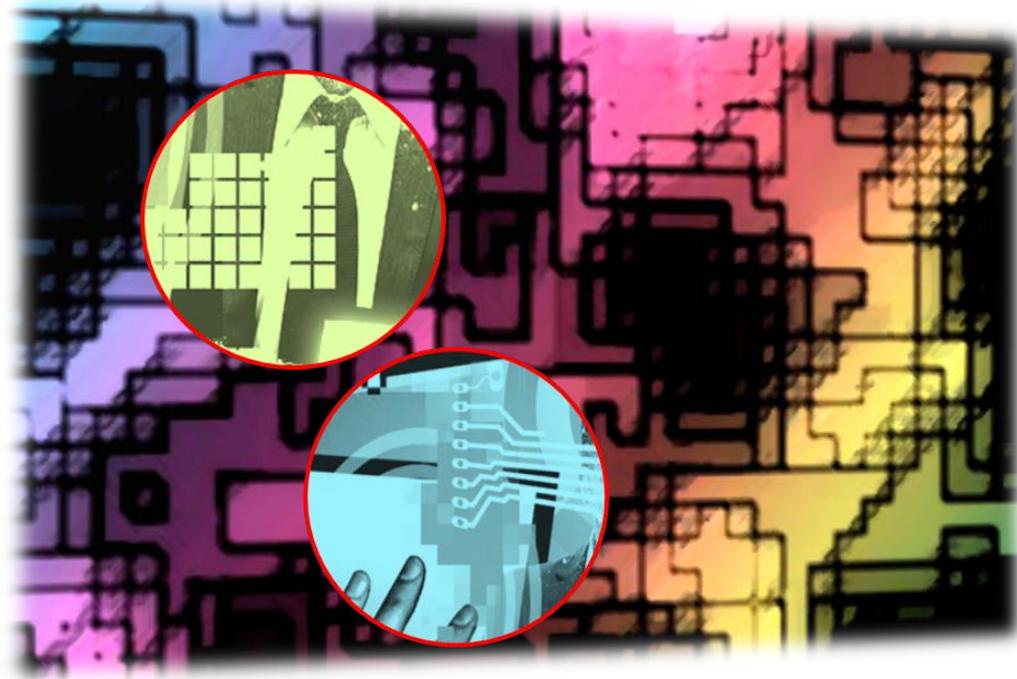
The brain is just the wrong kind of thing to give birth to consciousness. You might as well assert that numbers emerge from biscuits or ethics from rhubarb.

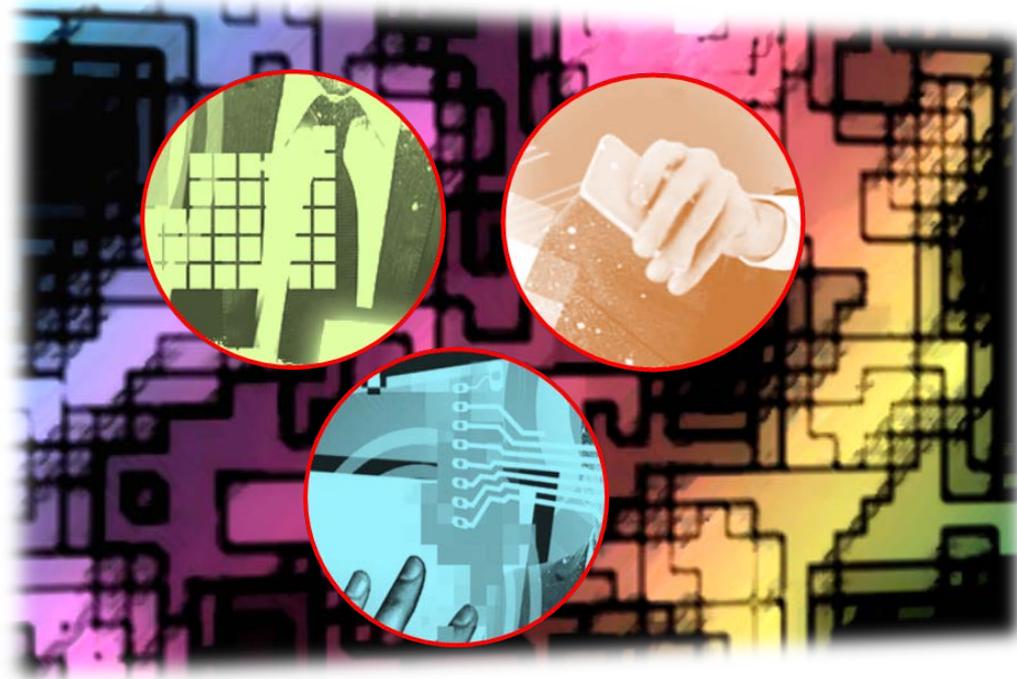
The states of mind of which *you are the subject*,
and which are *accessible by introspection*.

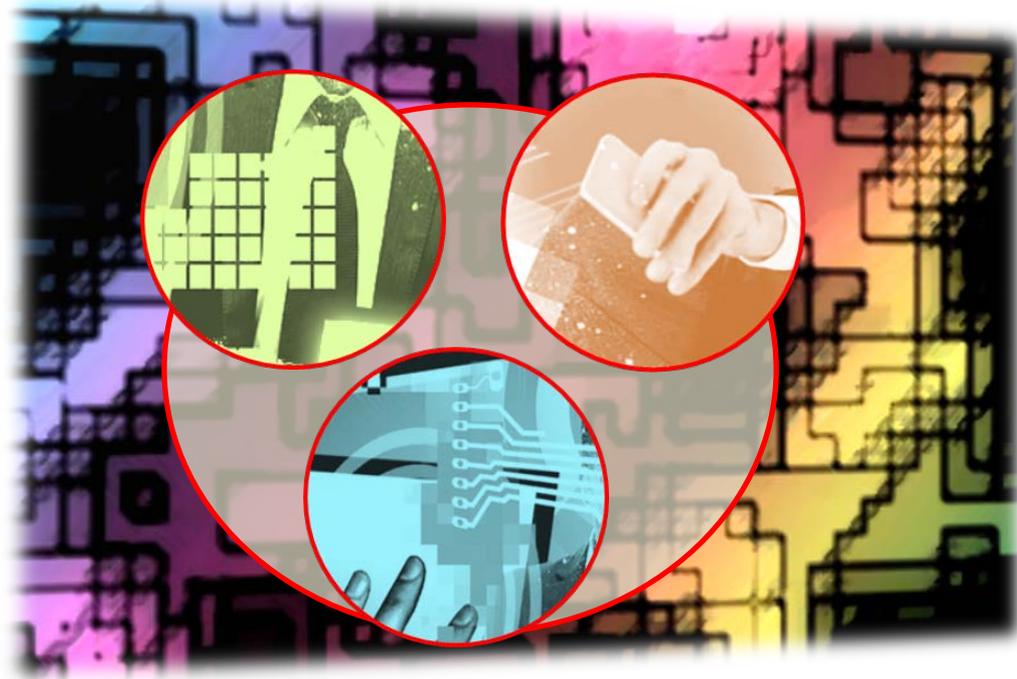








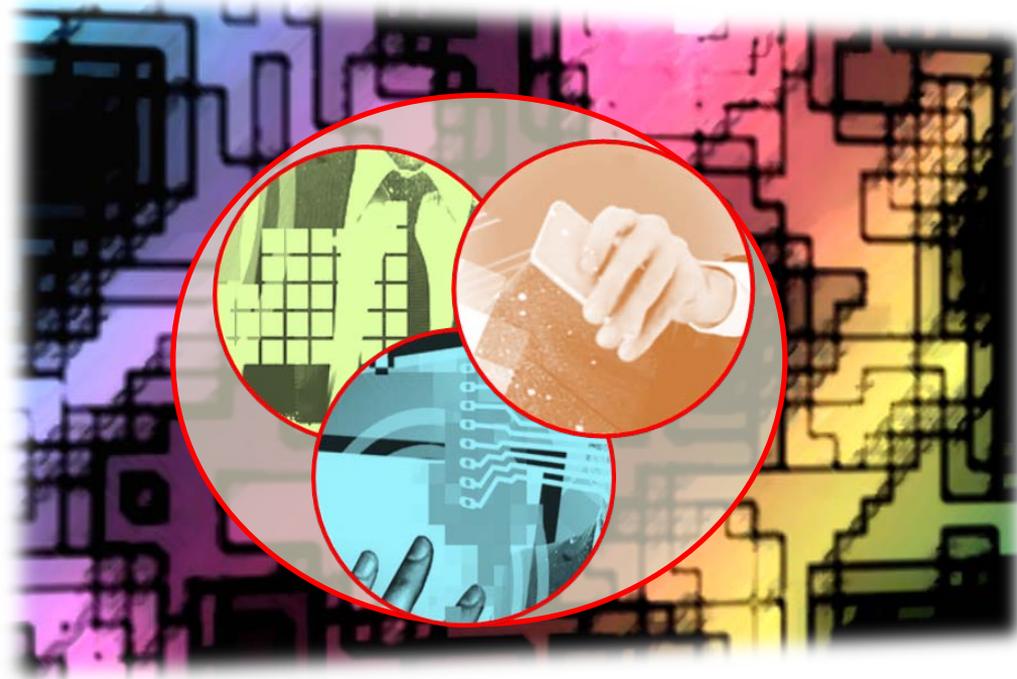






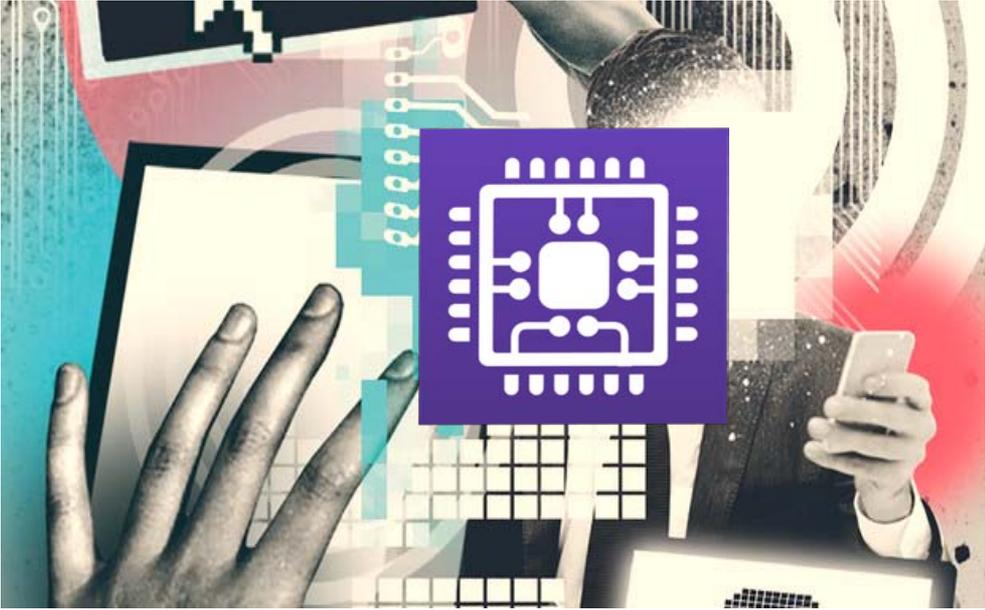


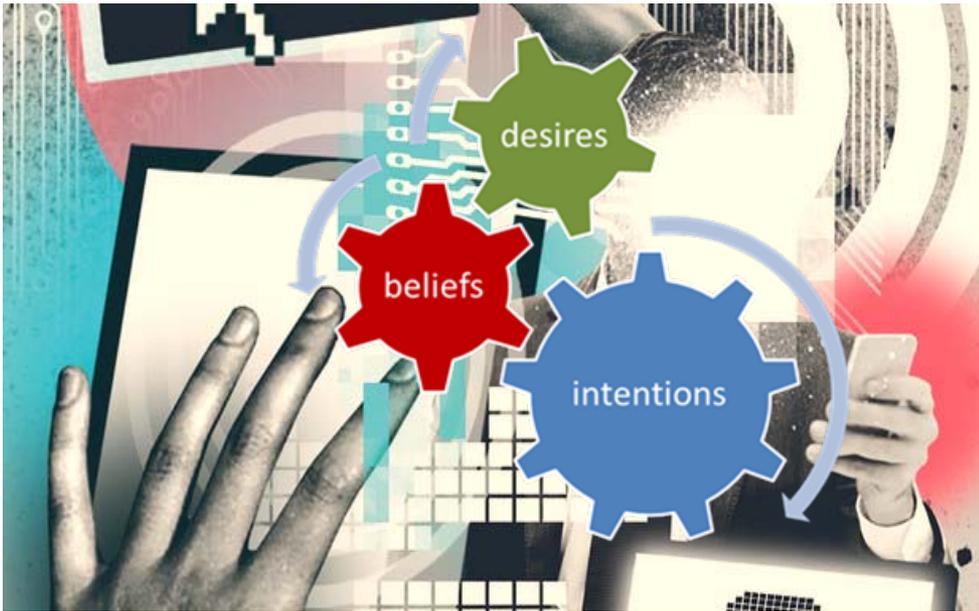


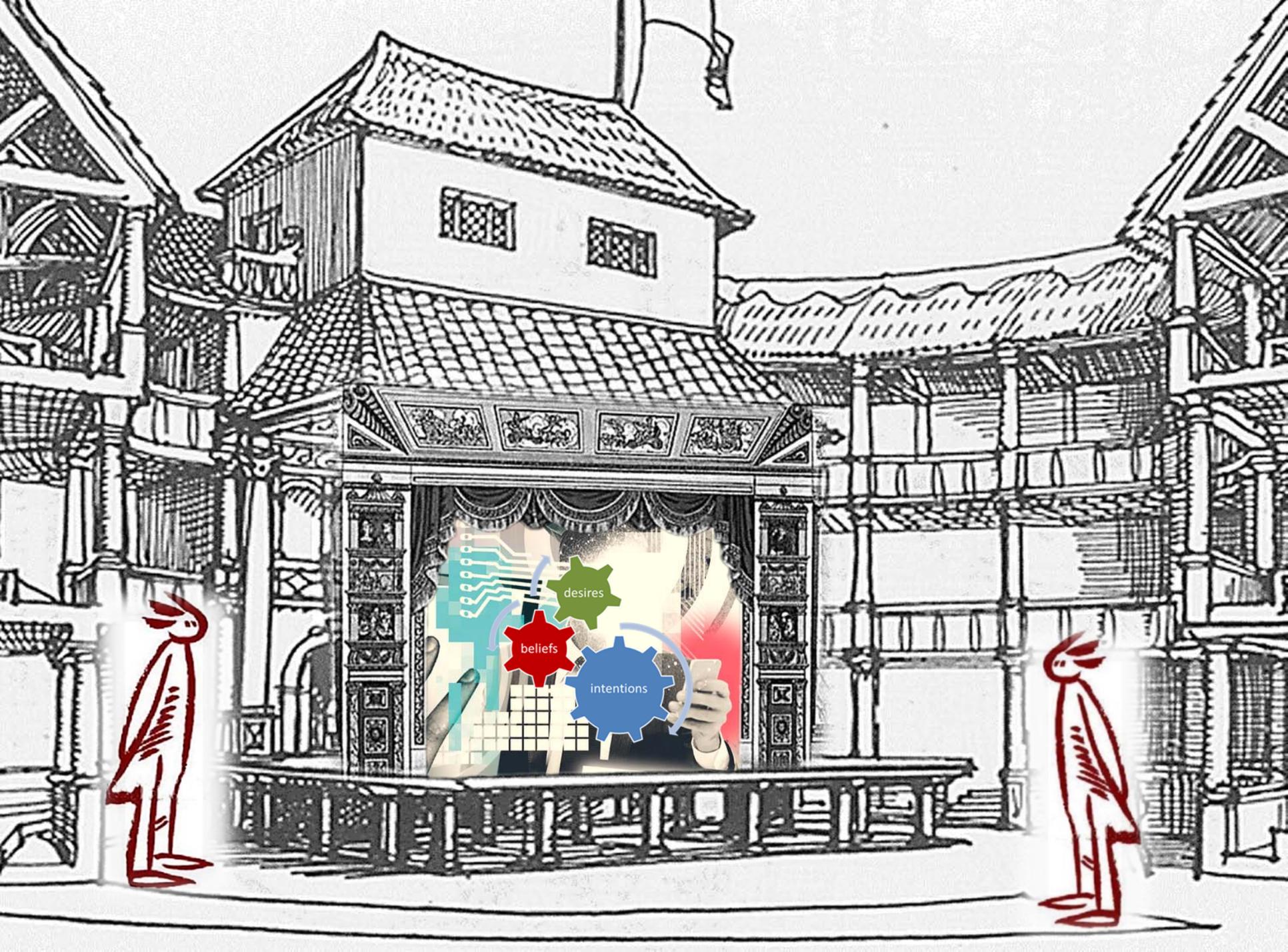












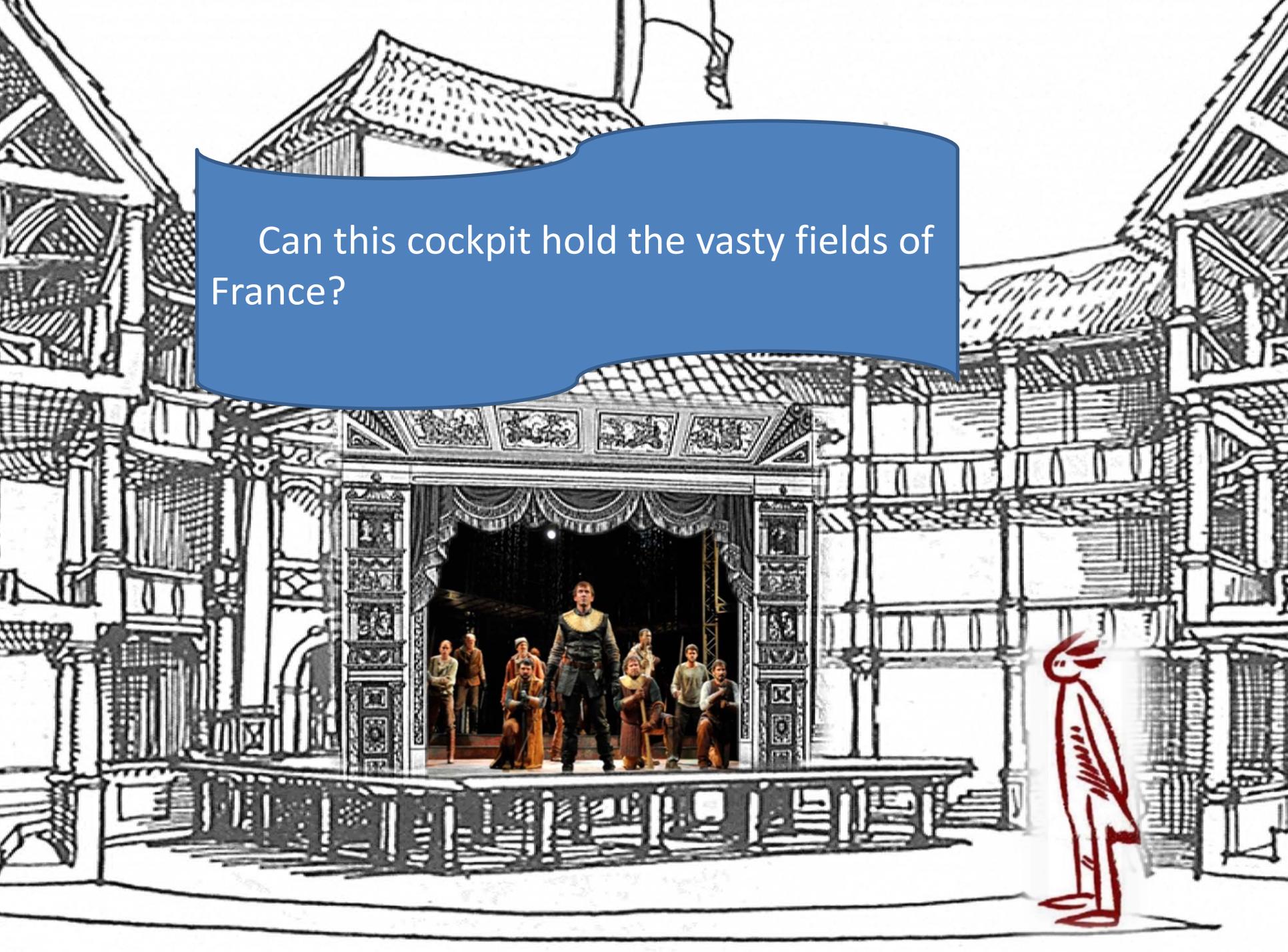




Pardon
the flat unraised spirits that have dared
On this unworthy scaffold to bring forth
So great an object.



Can this cockpit hold the vasty fields of France?



Since a crooked figure may
Attest in little place a million

1,000,000



So, let us, ciphers to this great account,
On your imaginary forces work.





Flight Plan

Remote Compass

Clock

Suction

Manifold Pressure

Airspeed

Artificial Horizon

Tach

Oil Temp, Fuel / Oil Pressure

Emergency
Cannon
Release

Altitude

Directional Gyro

Rate of Climb

Coolant temp

Carb air

Oxygen
Regulator

Recog Lights

Throttle
Mixture
Prop

Engine Control Panel

Weapons Control Panel

Cockpit
Lights

Oxygen Gauges

Canopy Crank

Cockpit
Landing
Lights

Aileron
Trim

Emergency
Hydraulic
Release

Electrical
Control
Panel

Rear
Radar
Warning
Control
Panel

Landing
Gear
Lever

Fuel
Select

Fuel
Switch

Retra
Control
Box

Rudder
Trim

Elevator
Trim

Prop
De-ice

De-ice

VHF
Control
Box

Crew
Heats

Crew
Flaps

Left Fuel Tank

Right Fuel Tank



70 60 50
Flight Plan

Remote Compass

Clock

Suction

Manifold Pressure

Airspeed

Artificial Horizon

Tach

Oil Temp, Fuel / Oil Pressure

Altitude

Coolant temp

**Emergency
Cannon
Release**

**Oxygen
Regulator**

Recog Lights

**Throttle
Mixture
Prop**

Engine Control Panel

Oxygen Gauges

Canopy Crank

**Cockpit
Landing
Lights**

**Aileron
Trim**

**Emergency
Hydraulic
Release**

**Electrical
Control
Panel**

**Rear
Radar
Warning
Control
Panel**

Rudder Trim

**Elevator
Trim**

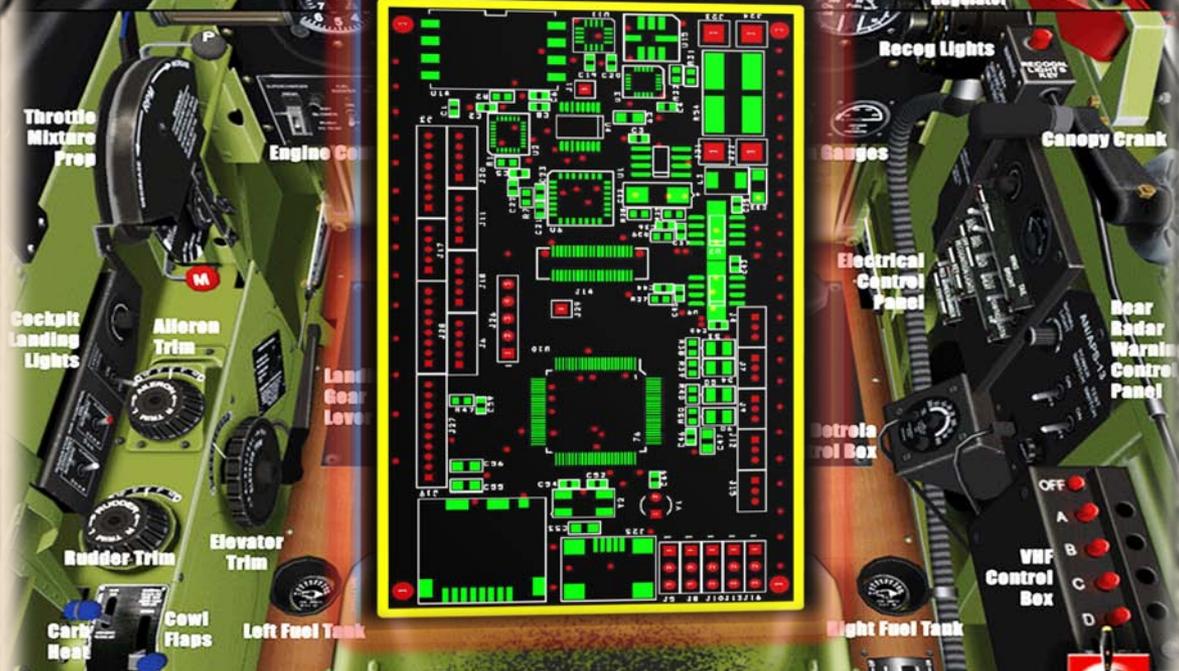
**Retrol
Control Box**

**VHF
Control
Box**

**Cann
Heat**

**Cowl
Flaps**

Left Fuel Tank





Flight Plan

Remote Compass

Clock

Suction

Manifold Pressure

Airspeed

Artificial Horizon

Tach

Oil Temp, Fuel / Oil Pressure

Altitude

Directional Gyro

Rate of Climb

Coolant temp

Emergency Canopy Release

Carb air

Oxygen Regulator

Recog Lights

Throttle Mixture Prop

Engine Control Panel

Weapons Control Panel

Cockpit Lights

Oxygen Gauges

Canopy Crank

Cockpit Landing Lights

Aileron Trim

Emergency Hydraulic Release

Electrical Control Panel

Rear Radar Warning Control Panel

Rudder Trim

Elevator Trim

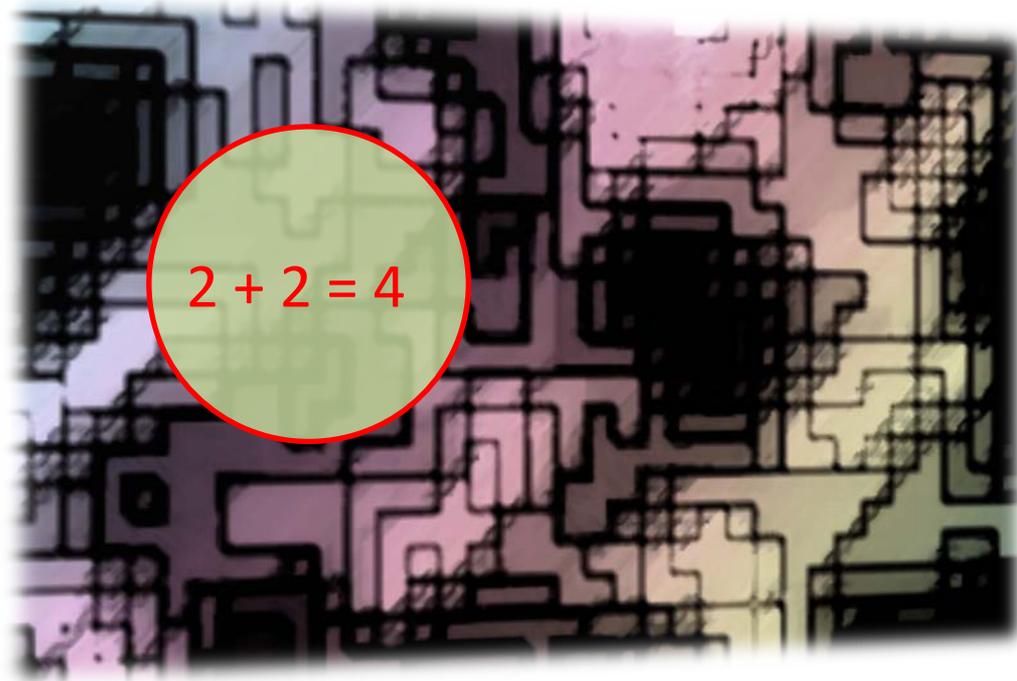
Crank

Flaps

FLIGHT RECORDER
DO NOT OPEN

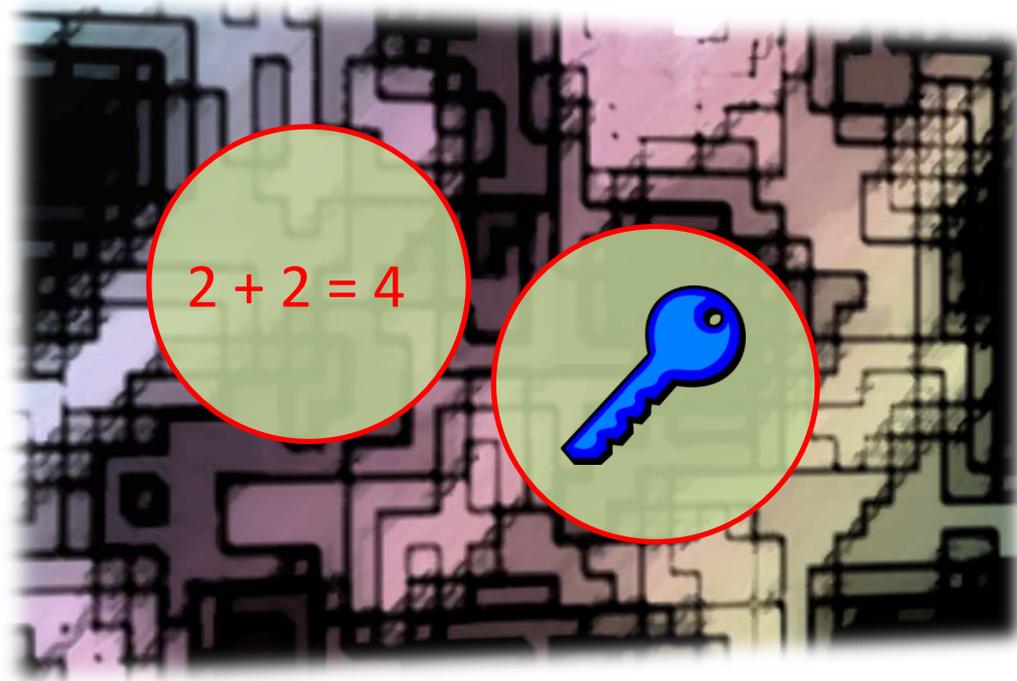
VHF Control Box

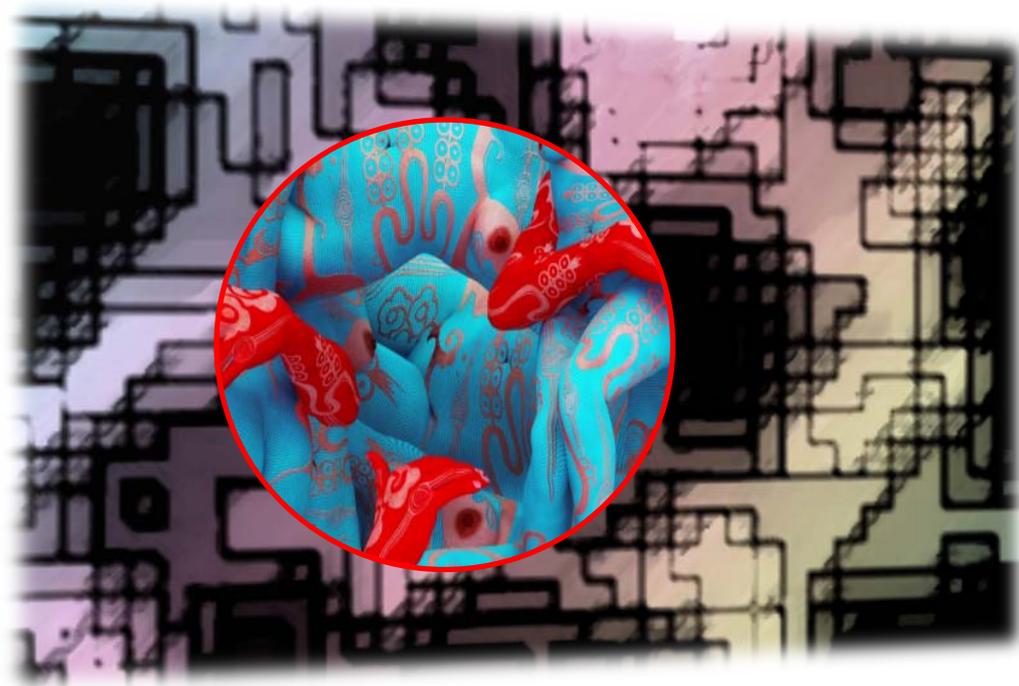
Fuel Tank



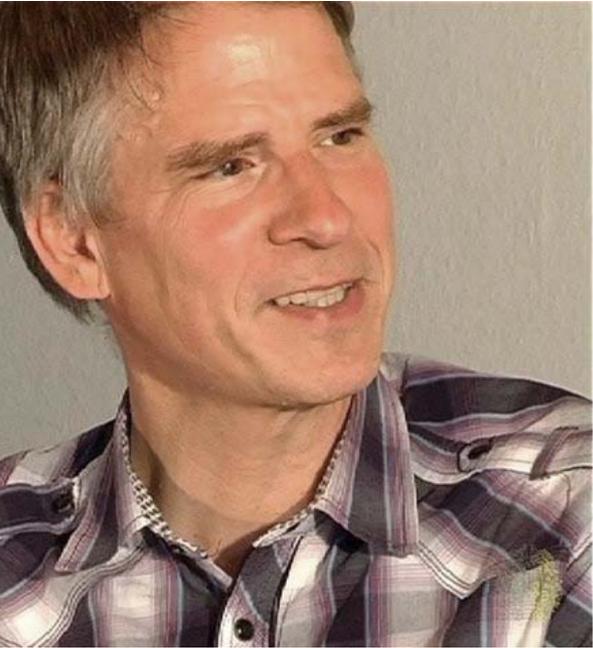
$$2 + 2 = 4$$











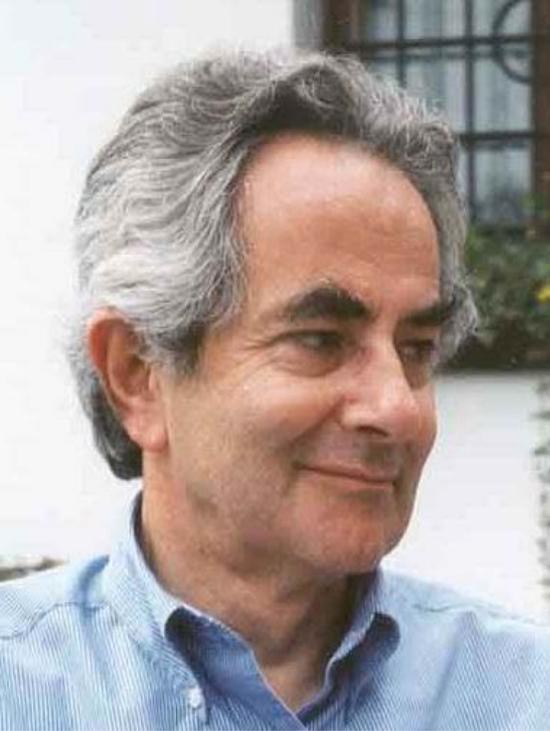
Christof Koch:

It is bizarre that brain matter should exude phenomenal feelings [qualia]. Consciousness is so vivid, and its properties appear so otherworldly, that it seems to call for God.

REALITY?



ILLUSION?



Tom Nagel, 2012:

The existence of consciousness seems to imply that the physical description of the universe, in spite of its richness and explanatory power, is only part of the truth, and that the natural order is far less austere than it would be if physics and chemistry accounted for everything.







Daniel Dennett, 2011:

Consciousness is an illusion of the brain, for the brain, by the brain.

Purple “qualia” are like a beautiful *discussion* of purple, just *about* a colour, without themselves being coloured.





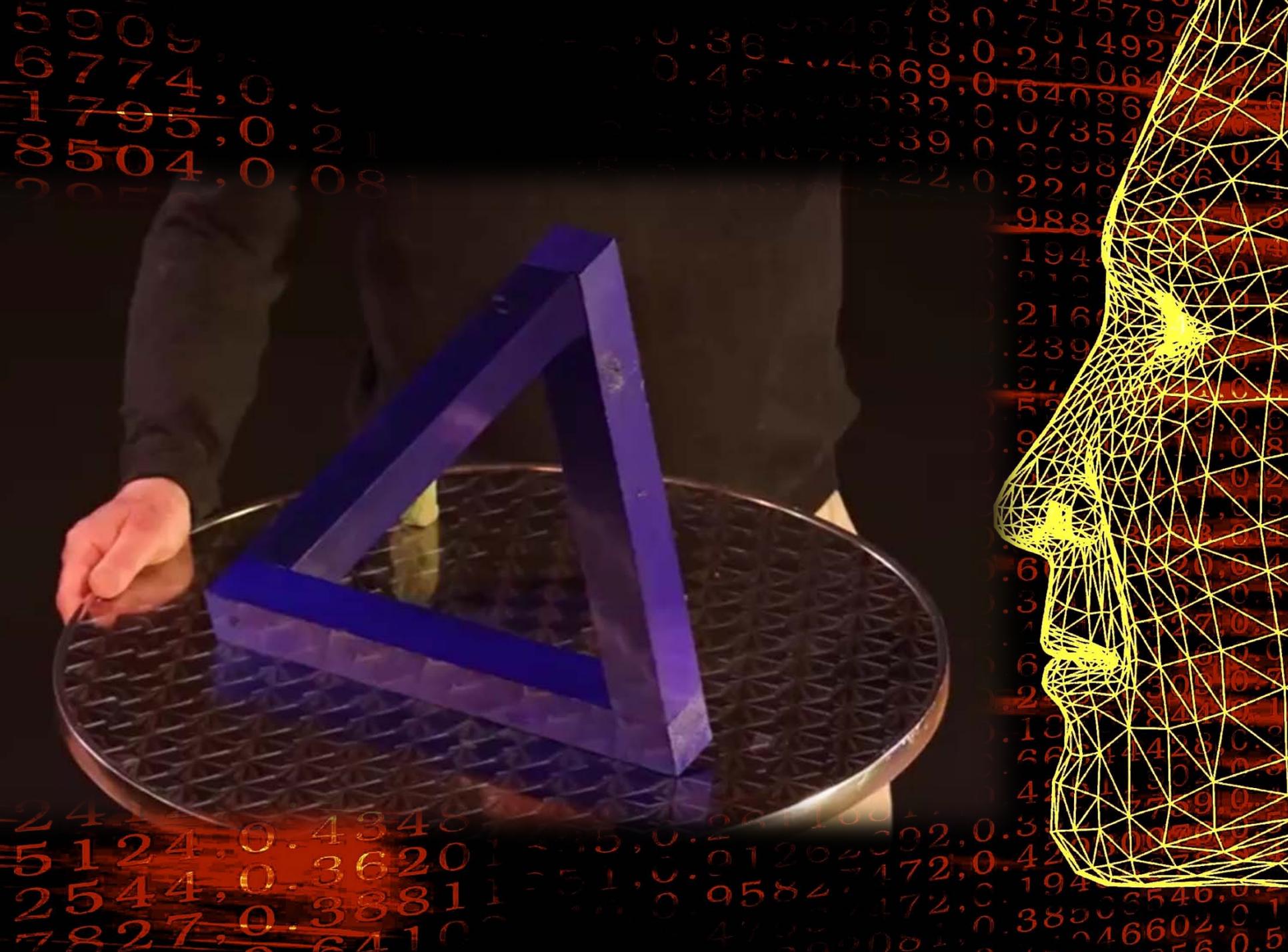


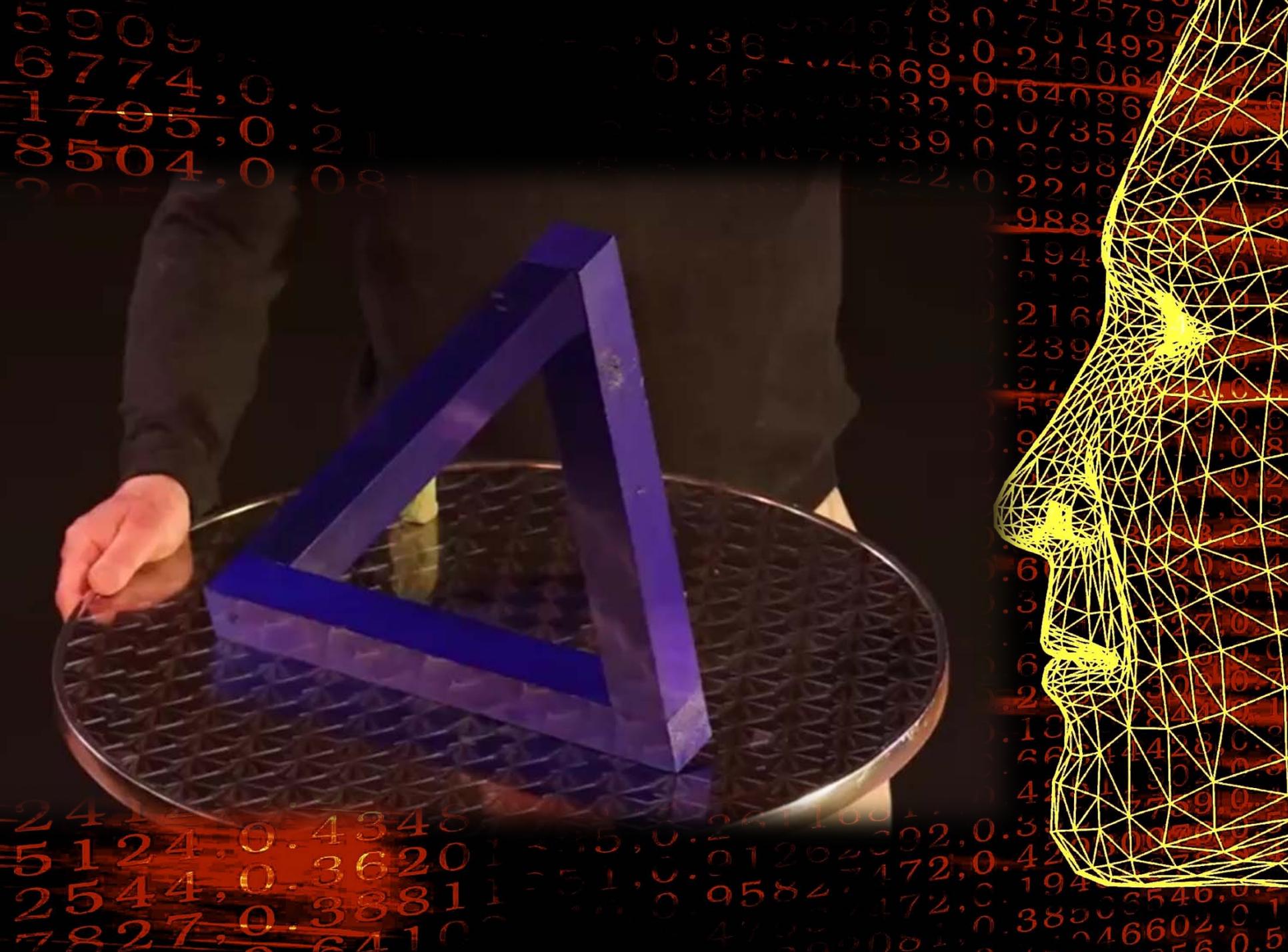
? REALITY



? ILLUSION









Flight Plan

Remote Compass

Clock

Suction

Manifold Pressure

Airspeed

Artificial Horizon

Tach

Oil Temp, Fuel / Oil Pressure

Emergency
Cannon
Release

Altitude

Coolant temp

Oxygen Regulator

Recog Lights

Throttle
Mixture
Prop

Engine Control Panel

Oxygen Gauges

Canopy Crank

Cockpit
Landing
Lights

Aileron
Trim

Emergency
Hydraulic
Release

Electrical
Control
Panel

Rear
Radar
Warning
Control
Panel

Rudder Trim

Elevator
Trim

Retrol
Control Box

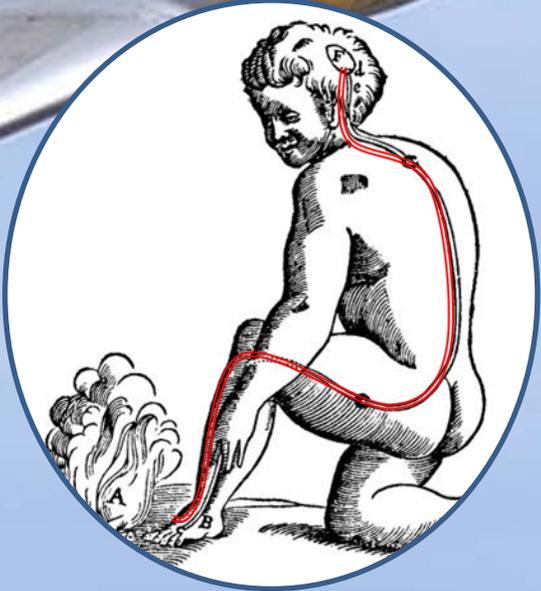
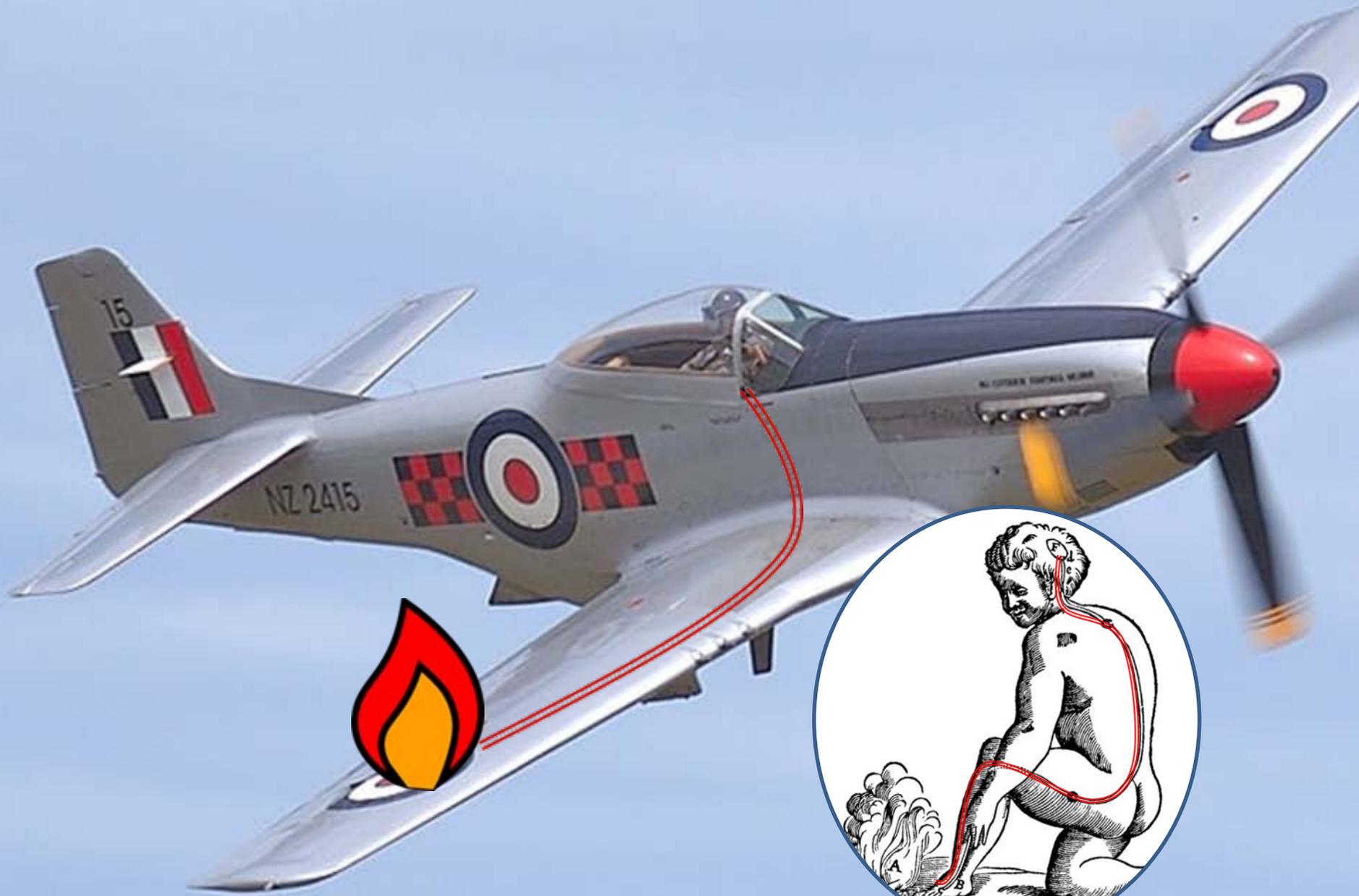
VHF
Control
Box

Crew
Heats

Cowl
Flaps

Left Fuel Tank













Remoto

ASI
615 30
570 75
525 120
480
435
390

VERTICAL SPEED
5 1.5
1
1.5
2

W 50 55 N 3
0
E 10 15
S 20 25

ALTIMETER
9 0 1 2
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
1000 FEET

Oil Temp.
Fuel / Oil Pressure

Emergency
Cannon
Release

Oxygen
Indicator

Recog Lights

Throttle
Mixture
Prop

Engine Control Panel

Oxygen Gauges

Canopy Crank

Cockpit
Landing
Lights

Aileron
Trim

Emergency
Hydraulic
Release

Electrical
Control
Panel

Rear
Radar
Warning
Control
Panel

Rudder Trim

Elevator
Trim

Retrol
Control Box

Cann
Heat

Crew
Flaps

Left Fuel Tank

OFF
A
B
C
D
VHF
Control
Box



The great object of life is sensation

Throttle
Mixture
Prop

Engine Control Panel

Oxygen Gauges

Canopy Crank

Warning
Lights

Rudder Trim

Elevator
Trim

Cockpit
Heater

Cowl
Flaps

Left Fuel Tank

Electrical
Control
Panel

Retractable
Gear

Warning
Control
Panel

OFF
A
B
C
D
VHF
Control
Box

Emergency
Canopy
Release

Holographic Principle

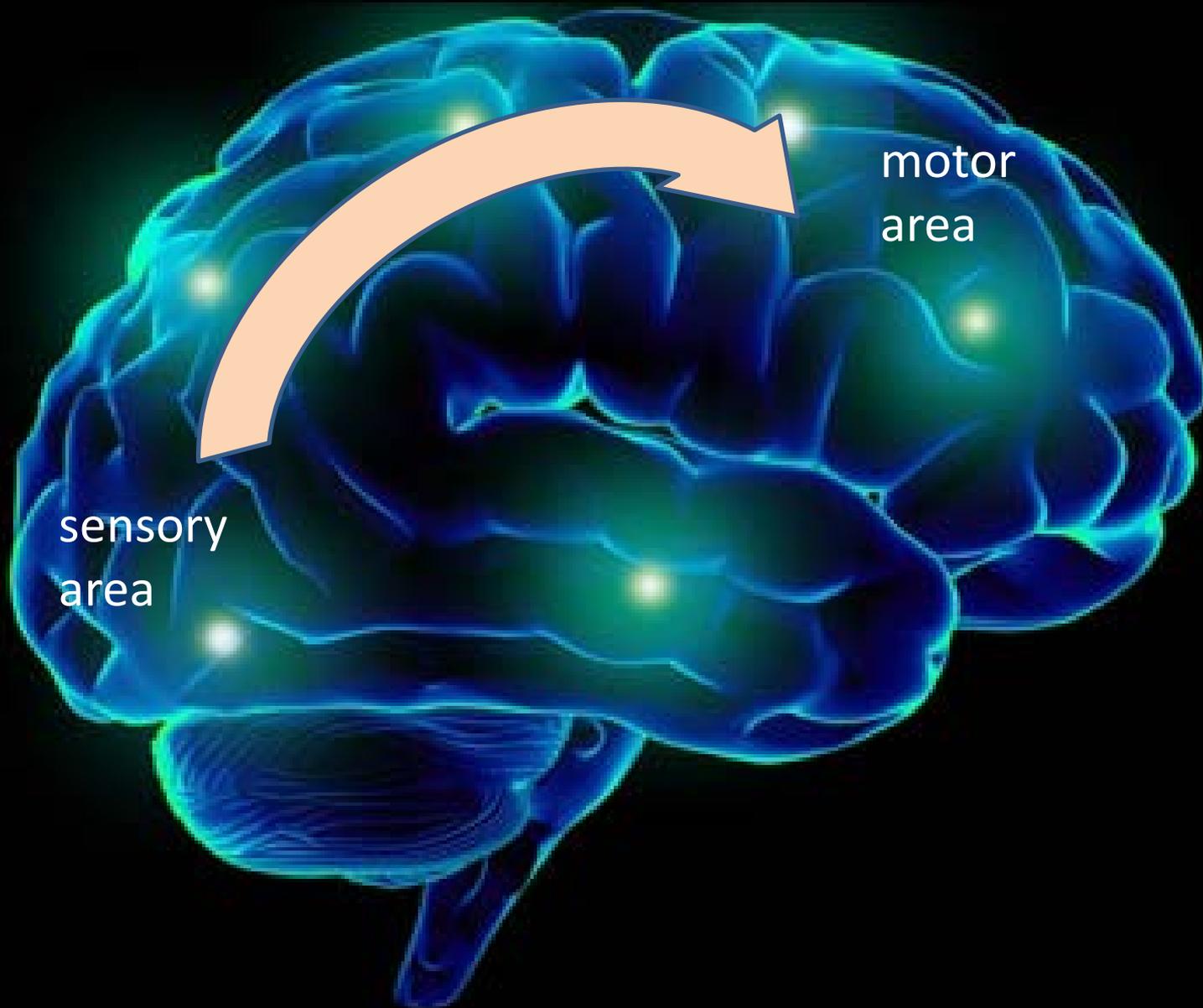
Just as a 2-dimensional surface can contain all the information required to construct a 3-d world, so an n -dimensional surface can contain all the information required to construct an $n+1$ -dimensional world.



“This idea is so odd, it's comparable to finding that the instruction manual for a dishwasher holds the recipe to making a good chocolate soufflé.”

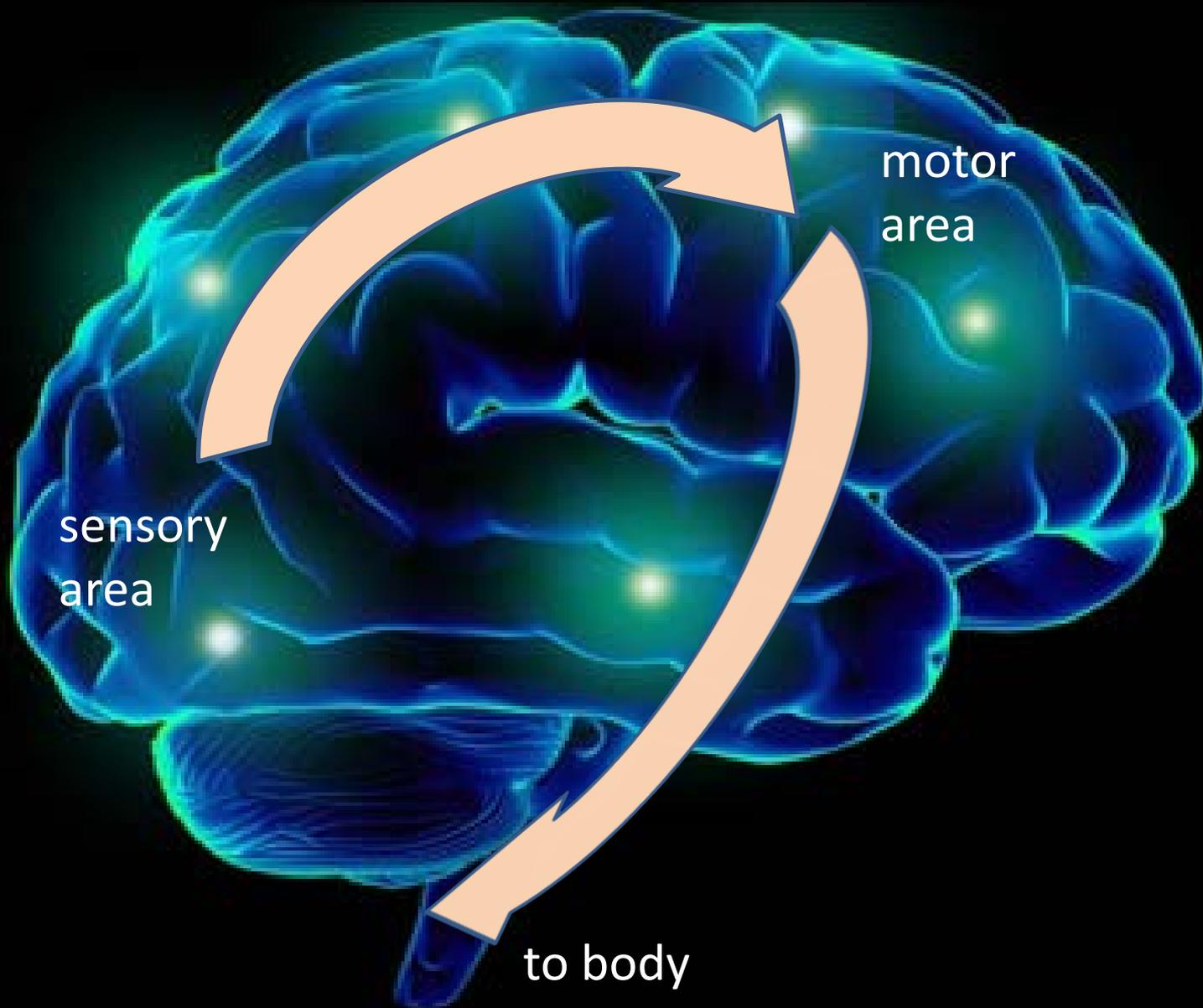
McGinn: “You might as well assert that numbers emerge from biscuits or ethics from rhubarb.”





sensory
area

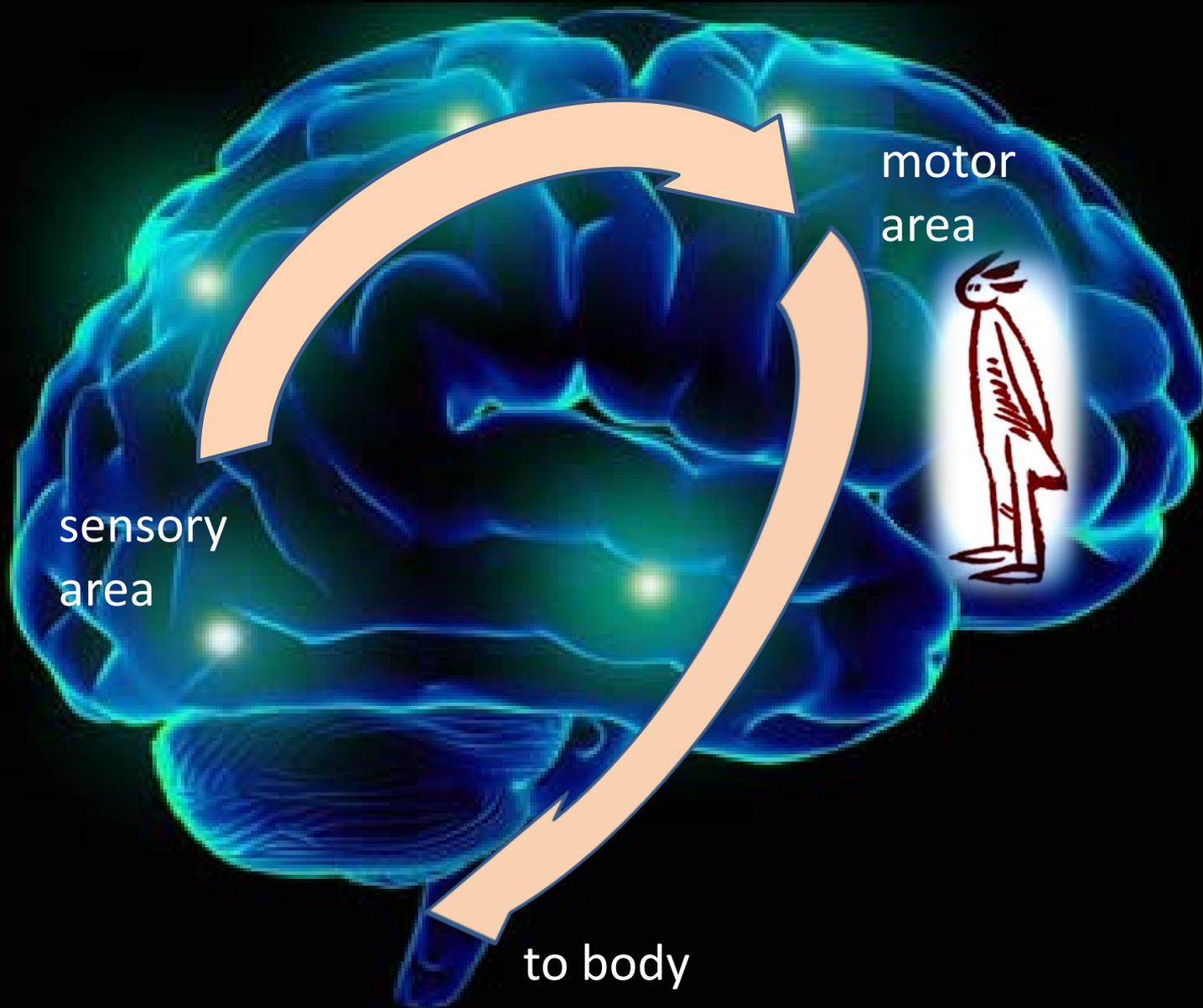
motor
area

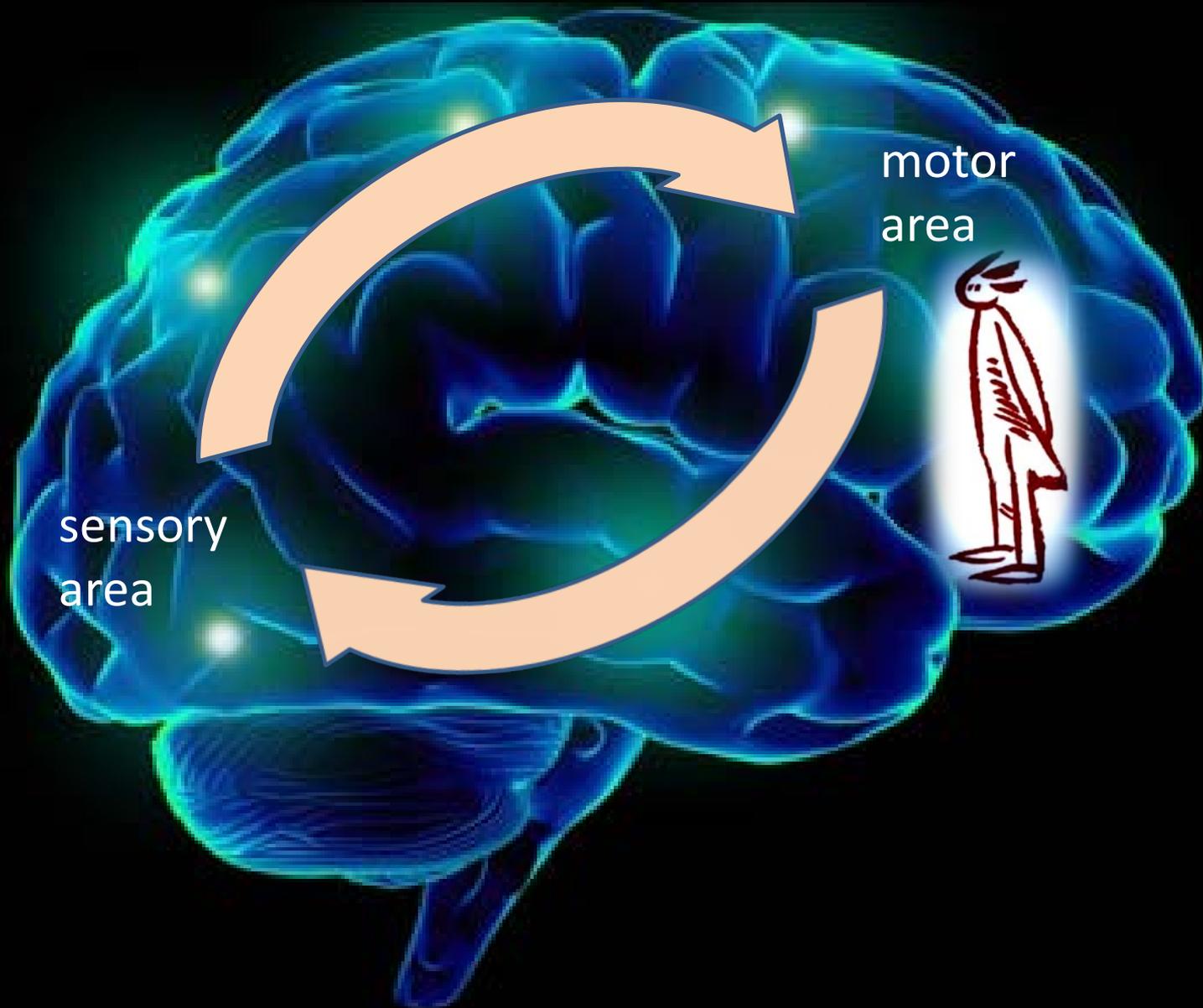


sensory
area

motor
area

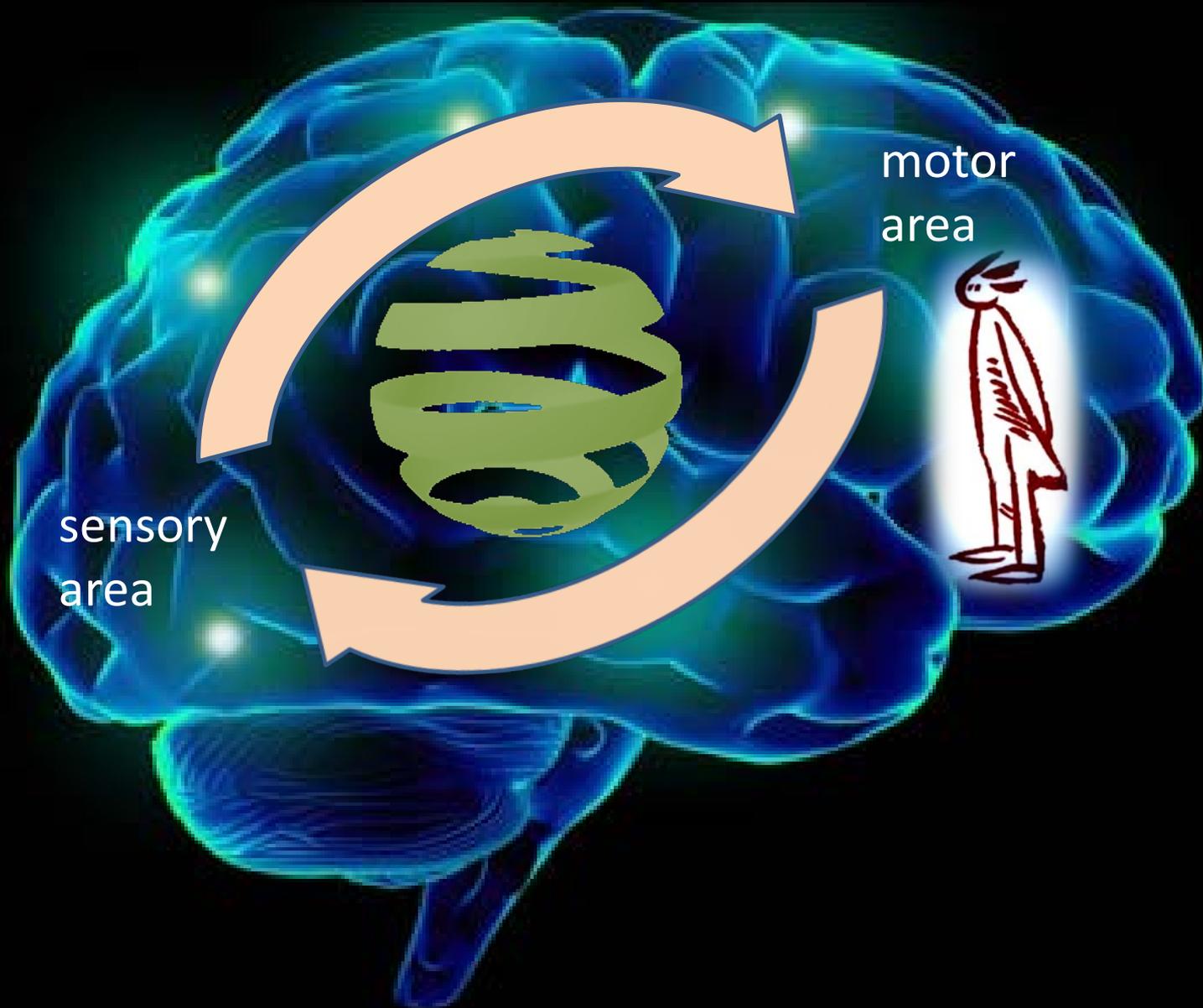
to body





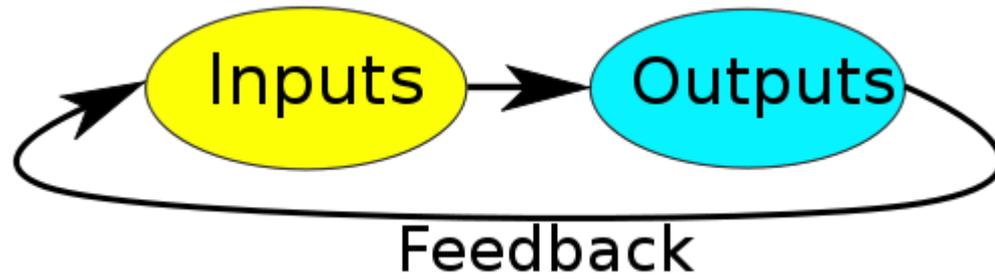
sensory
area

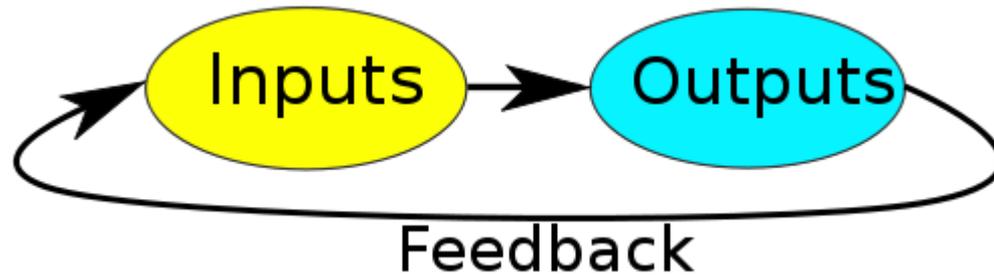
motor
area



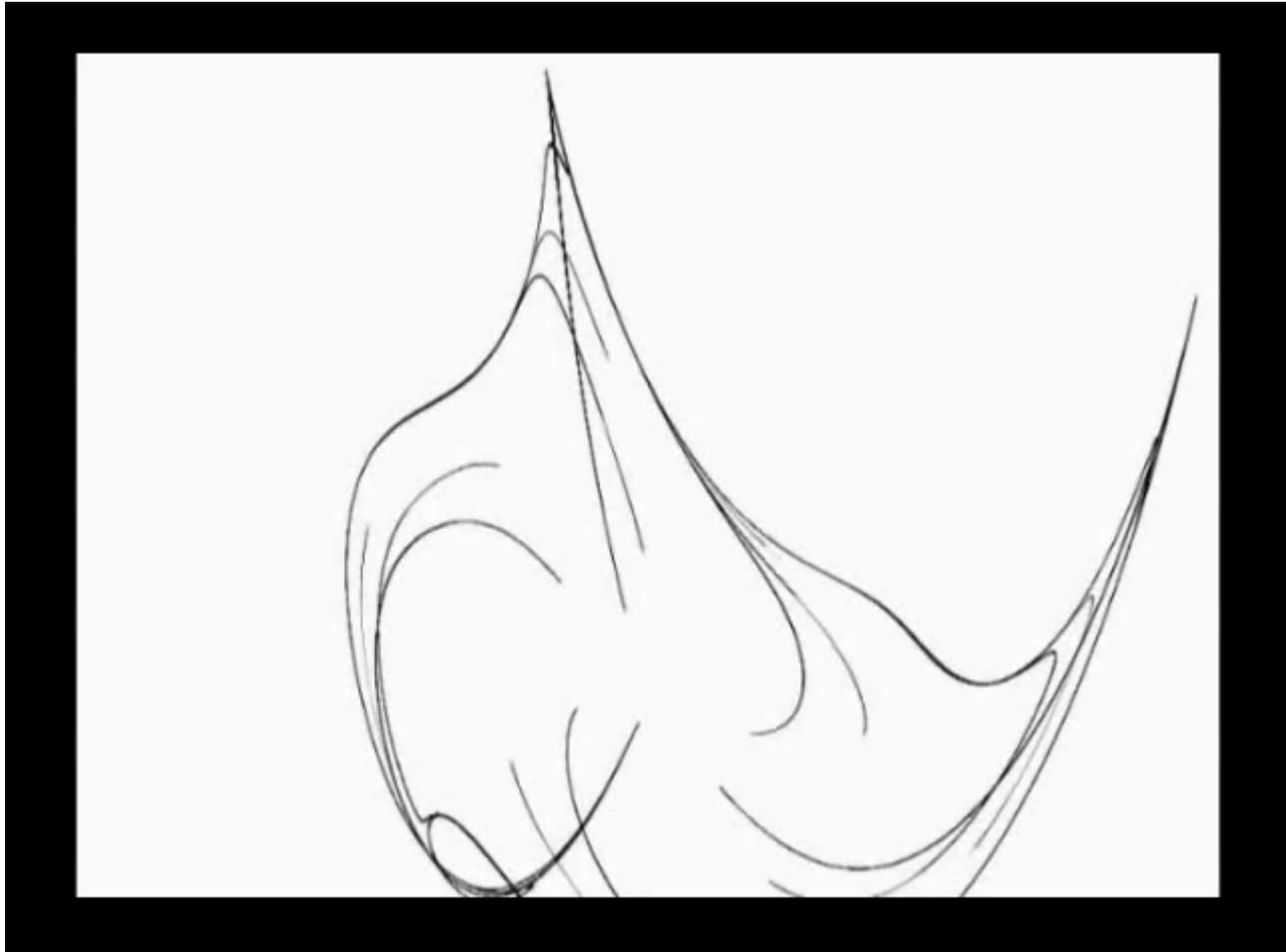
sensory
area

motor
area

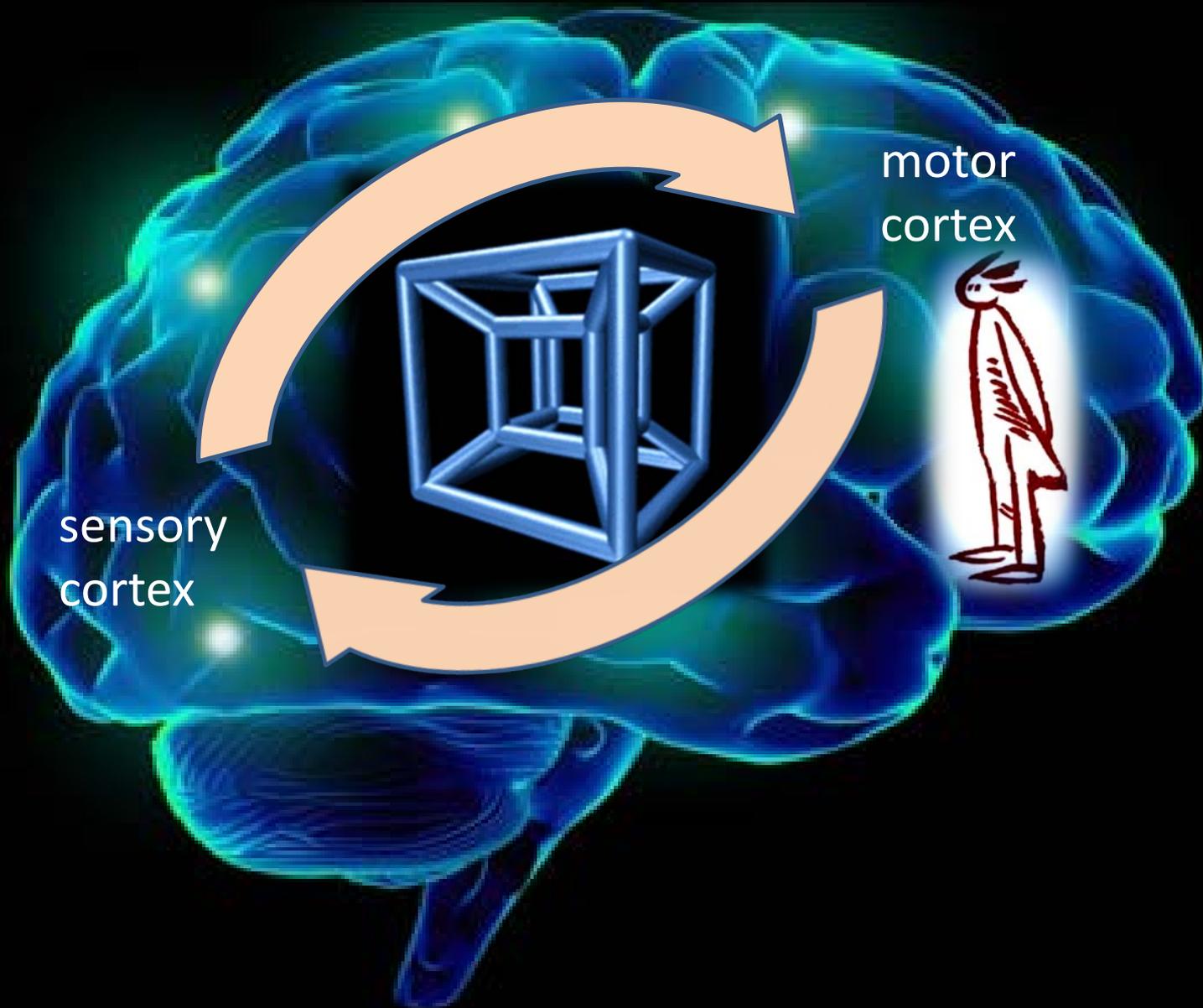




Delay Differential Equation



A “strange attractor” developing in a feedback loop

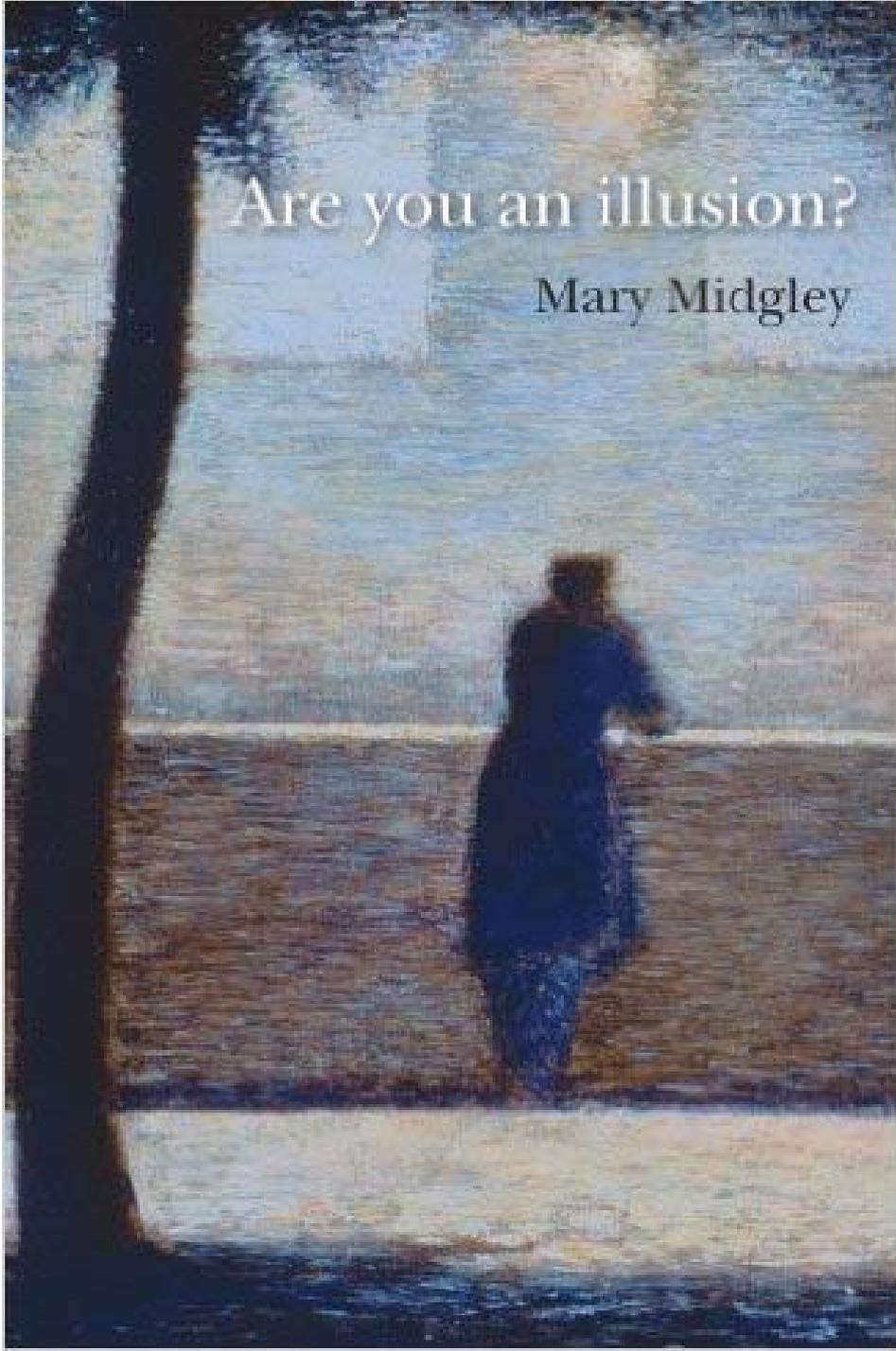


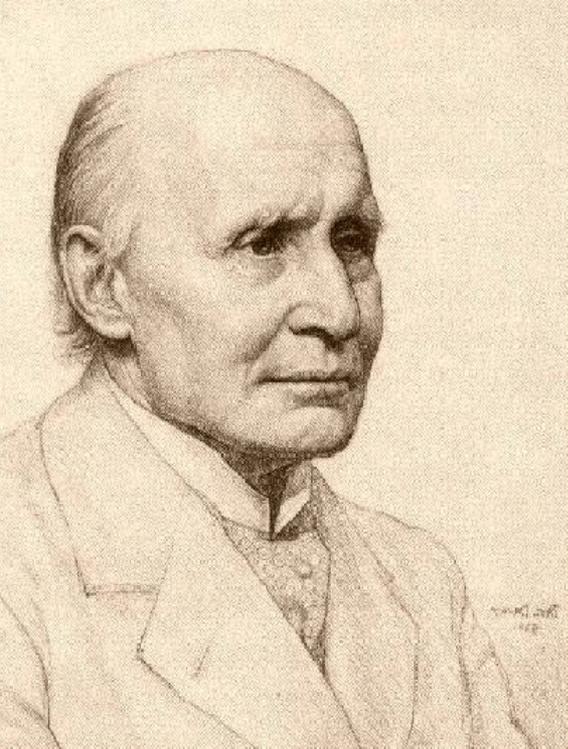
sensory
cortex

motor
cortex

Are you an illusion?

Mary Midgley

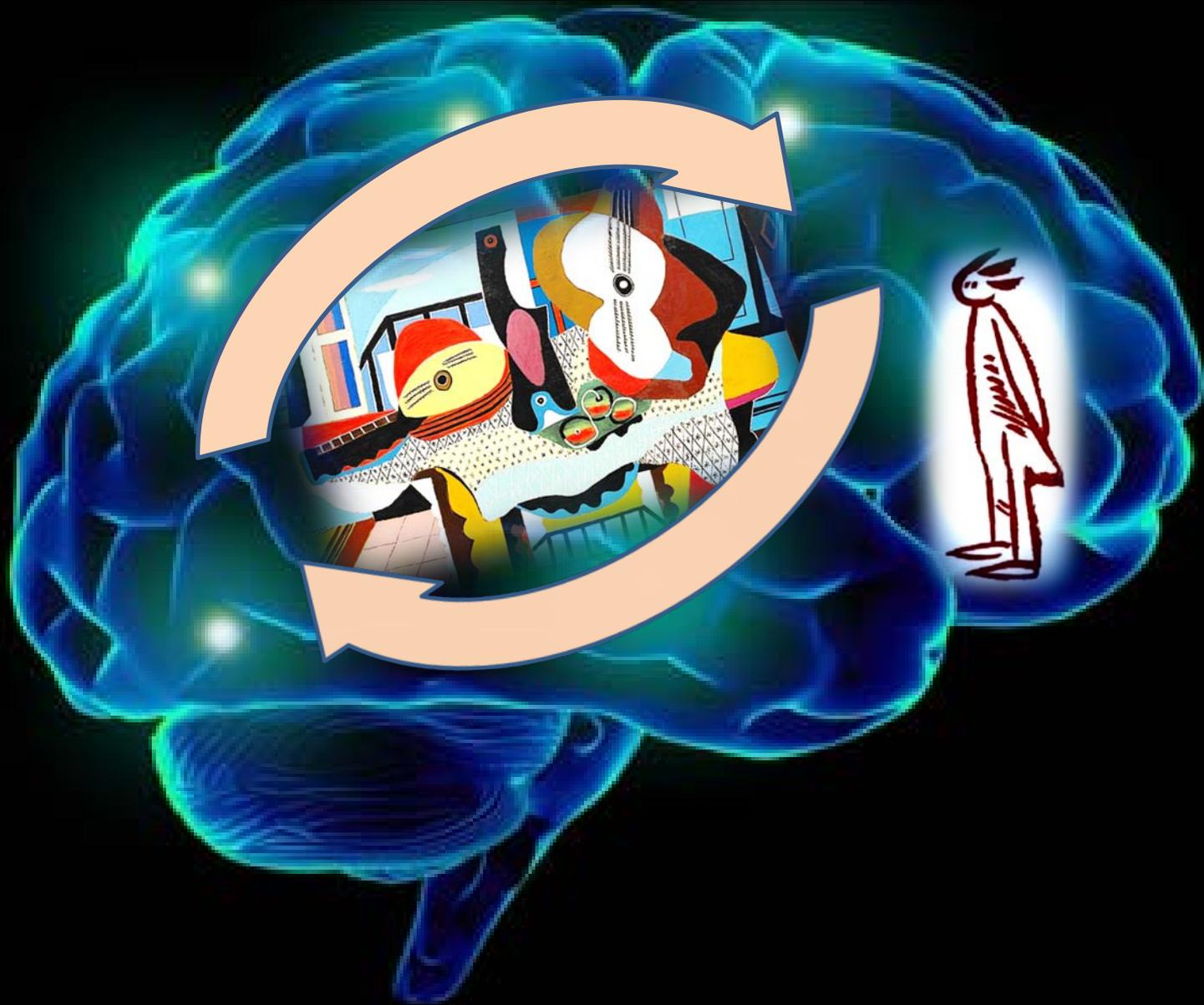




A.N. Whitehead 1926:

As if Nature is a dull affair, soundless,
scentless, colourless; merely the hurrying
of material, endlessly, meaninglessly?

It is quite unbelievable.



Picasso: Art is a lie that makes us realize truth.

Van Gogh: What I most want to do is to make of these incorrectnesses, deviations, or adjustments of reality something that may be “untrue” but is at the same time more true than literal truth.

Klee: Art does not reproduce the visible; rather, it makes visible.

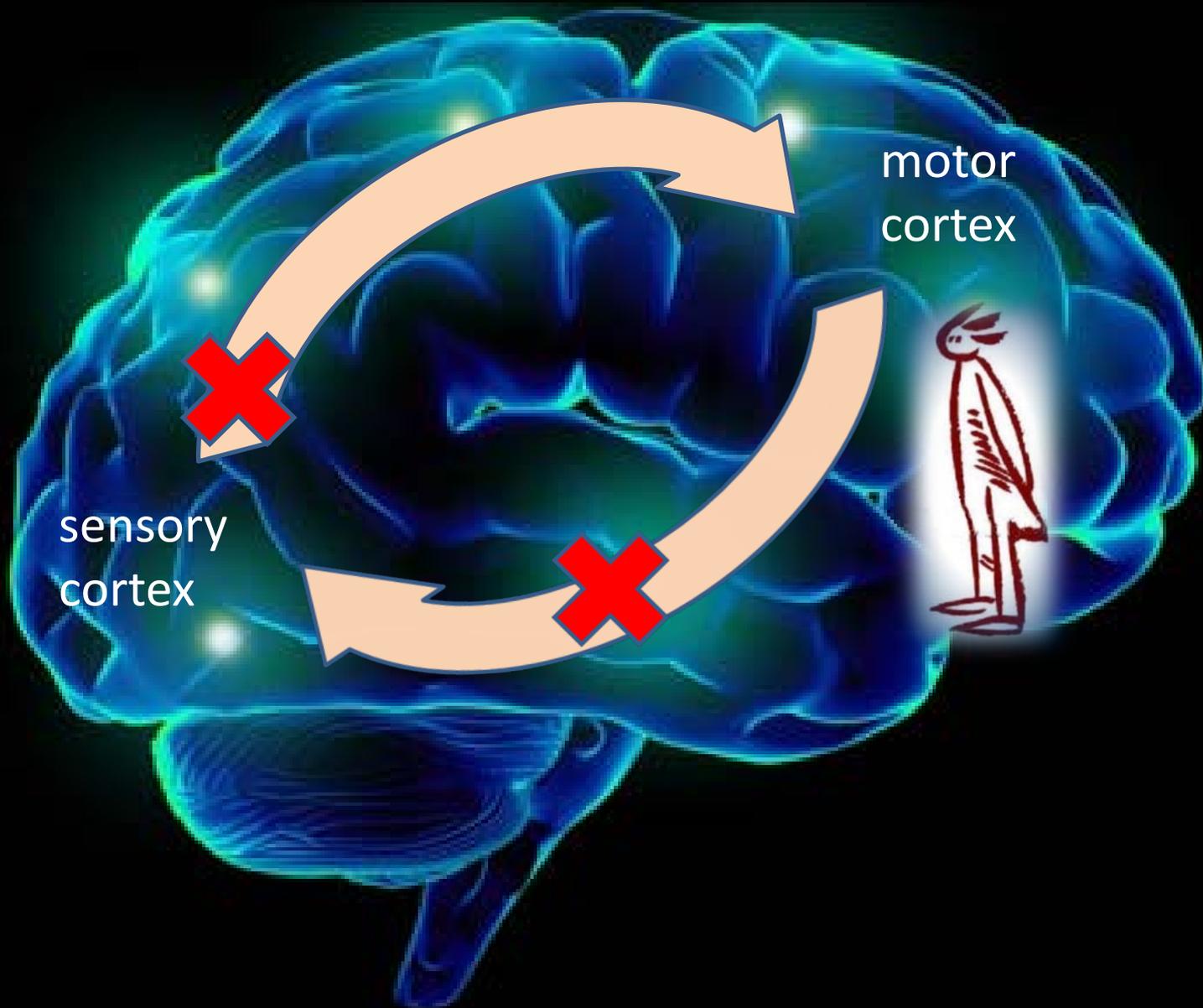
Nietzsche: Art is not merely an imitation of the reality of nature, but in truth a metaphysical supplement to the reality of nature.



Samuel Palmer 1824:

Bits of nature are generally much improved by being received into the soul.







Pablo Picasso 1951

“She’s more like a goat than a real goat, don’t you think”.