



Perception Deception

We assume what we see, hear and feel is real. But our reality is really only our perception – and no two of us perceive things exactly the same way.

Our brains create a model of our surroundings based on our sense of perception. Our brains cope with the immense volume of sensory signals we receive every second by editing, prioritising and sometimes even adding information. This is how we create our perception of the things and people around us. Questacon's *Perception Deception* exhibition explores this phenomenon.

Questacon's travelling hands-on exhibition *Perception Deception* lets visitors discover the world inside their head and explores how people may perceive the same thing in different ways.

The exhibition investigates how the brain interprets and reports information received from the senses. You may think that your eyes are like a pair of movie cameras, faithfully reporting what you see to your brain, but this is far from the truth. Your brain takes signals from your senses, then adds and subtracts its own information like an editing machine.

When you see, hear or feel an illusion, you'll realise your brain uses a bag of perceptual tricks to create your 'reality'. Even when you know how an illusion works, your brain stays on perceptual autopilot.

Perception Deception features 28 exhibits with 60 interactive experiences, exploring areas of multi-sensory, sight, sound and social perception. Multimedia activities allow visitors to compare their results with others to see if they perceive things differently.

The exhibition is supported with interactive activities on the Questacon website that include mind-bending perception tests and teacher resources.

Perception Deception is the first Questacon exhibition to use Quick Response (QR) Codes. Using a compatible mobile phone, visitors can scan individual QR Codes to receive extra information via the internet about each exhibit.

The *Perception Deception* exhibition was conceived, designed and built by Questacon and is currently touring. Its modular and highly portable format makes it ideal for a range of venues, from regional to metropolitan.

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