

CONTEXT

The basis for this experiment was further conceptual development of the preliminary experiment with reflection. I had noted the distortion as a reflection was reflected again and again by an undulating reflective membrane. I wanted to further explore the deterioration of a recognizable image in the context of a closed system.

EXPERIMENT

I developed a number of further potential experiments, some of which were technically difficult to achieve in the limited timeframe of days, however, I decided on 3 different approaches to explore with timeframe and technology available.

Digital photocopy technology uses light translated into electrical energy, then a reflective mirror to create the copy. I thought this would be an ideal 'tool' for my 3 proposed initial experiments as follows:

1. Successive copies of one photographic image (ie. copy of a copy) taken from Experiment 1.
2. Successive copies of a reversed (reflected) drawing of the above photograph.
3. Multiple copies of above drawing set up in a pattern using inverse and reverse of original.

CONCLUSION

This experimental process was successful. All demonstrated a dissolution of the original image. No.1 and No.2, through deterioration, and No.3 thru diminution by multiplication.

While reading Merleau-Ponty post experiment, I came across the following ***"...in seeing myself seeing, the experience I have of myself perceiving does not go beyond a sort of imminence, it terminates in the invisible, ...ie. the reverse of its specular perception, of the concrete vision I have of my body in the mirror"***. (Merleau-Ponty, *The Visible and The Invisible* 1968 p.249)

This affirms my results in a phenomenological rationale. A closed system of reflection / impermeability, could be deemed to indicate that degeneration, perceptual invisibility is the only possible outcome. There is potential for further experimentation and reflection.

Perhaps Ovid says it more eloquently when speaking of Narcissus.

**He knows not what he sees, but what he sees
invites him. Even as the pool deceives
his eyes, it tempts them with delights. But why,
o foolish boy, do you persist? Why try
to grip an image? He does not exist—**

—Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Allen Mandelbaum translation)

