

## Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence Tags: [art](#), [ghosts](#), [illusion](#), [shadow](#), [visions\\_voices](#)

A research guide to the Visions and Voices events offered in conjunction with the fall 2008 USC Fisher Museum of Art exhibition, Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence.

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### Events

**Aesthetics and the Brain**  
A Lecture by Irving Biederman  
Tuesday, September 9, 2008 :  
6:00pm

**The Cabinet of Wonder**  
A Lecture by David Wilson  
Tuesday, October 14, 2008 : 5:30pm

**Icons of Culture**  
A Lecture by Jim Campbell  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008 :  
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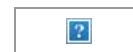
### Introduction

The human desire to understand and manipulate the unknown manifests itself visually in Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence. Through the use of otherworldly shadows, fog, mirrors and projections, artists in the exhibition shock their audiences while provoking a frightened and awestruck reaction. At the same time, they demonstrate control over the experience they create for spectators. Shadow and illusion are two examples of devices that deceive audiences and guide their responses to phantasmagoric artworks.

Katherine Goar of the USC Fisher Museum of Art and Judy Truelson of the USC Libraries have selected a variety of resources to help you explore the influence of shadow and illusion on the art world. These include materials on the history and contemporary practice of art, including books and a slideshow that includes three pieces from the exhibition, which runs through November 8.

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### Research Guide



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### Art and Shadow

Here are a selection of books to help you explore the role of shadows in phantasmagoric art.

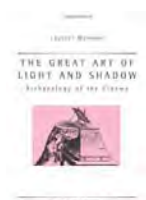


#### Shadows: The Depiction of Cast Shadows in Western Art - E. H. Gombrich

Call Number: AFA Library N8243.WS36G66

ISBN: 0300063571

Gombrich discusses how 17th-century artists and romantic, impressionist and surrealist artists exploited the device of the cast shadow.



#### The Great Art of Light and Shadow: Archaeology of the Cinema - Laurent Mannoni

Call Number: Cinema Library TR 848.M27413

ISBN: 085989665X

Mannoni describes what is now known as the "pre-cinema" period, showing a fascinating range of optical media from the 12th century to the turn of the 20th century.



#### Phantasmagoria - Jose Roca

Call Number: AFA Library N8243.S36R63 2007

ISBN: 091636576X

This richly illustrated catalog features the phantasmagoric artworks in this exhibition.

#### Play with Light and Shadow: The Art and Techniques of Shadow Theater - Herta Schoenewolf

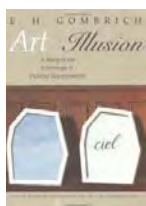
Call Number: DML Library PN1979.S5S35 1968

Schoenewolf presents a summary and historical analysis of shadow puppetry.

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### Art & Illusion

Here are a selection of books to help you explore the role of illusion in phantasmagoric art.



#### Art & Illusion: A Study in the Psychology of Pictorial Representation - E. H. Gombrich

ISBN: 0691070008

Gombrich puts forth his own controversial theory of perception, thereby bringing the topic of the visual back to the center of the history of the visual arts.

#### Eyes, Lies and Illusions: The Art of Deception - Laurent Mannoni

Call Number: AFA Library N7430.5.M36 2004

ISBN: 0853319138

This wonderful collection of images and artifacts explores the art and science of perception, tracing the historical paths that led to contemporary

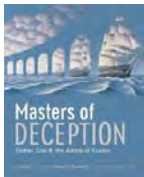
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photographic and cinematic image-making through the toys and optical illusions in the exhibition.

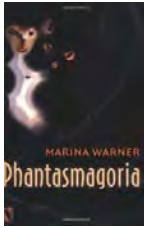


Masters of Deception: Escher, Dali & the Artists of Optical Illusion - Al Seckel

Call Number: AFA Library N7430.5.S414 2004

ISBN: 140275101X

This volume offers a dazzling array of artistic creations that cleverly manipulate the perspectives and perceptions of viewers.



Phantasmagoria: Spirit Visions, Metaphors, and Media - Marina Warner

Call Number: DML Library BH301.I52W37 2006

ISBN: 0199239231

Warner discusses ten vehicles or types of imagery through which people have tried to depict the illusory. She labels them wax, air, clouds, light, shadow, mirror, ghost, ether, ectoplasm and film.

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### Slideshow

Selected artworks on display in the Phantasmagoria: Specters of Absence exhibition at the USC Fisher Museum of Art from September 3 through November 8:

Jim Campbell

*Library*, 2004

L.E.D. screen with attached Plexiglas and photogravure; 26 ¼ x 31 ½ x 3in.

Courtesy of Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery, New York.

Julie Nord

*The Hands*, 2007

Wall drawing; dimensions variable

Collection of the artist and Mogadishni Gallery, Valby, Denmark.

Michel Delacroix

*Lisetta, Ferdinand, Saverio, Edward*, 1995

Metal, plastic, engraved mirrors, water and spotlight; four pieces, each 73 ¼ x 16 ½ in.

Collection of Miguel Angel Corzo, Philadelphia.

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