Textual Perception

# Touch

” When vision and touch are used together, the "externalization" of tactual experience becomes especially compelling” (Loomis, 1986)

In his famous treatise, *Peri Psychēs*, (On the Soul) Aristotle states that the first and most important form of sensation the human share with animals is a sense of touch. Almost without exception every living animal on earth has a sense of touch, even if they do not possess any other senses. The reason for this, although Aristotle certainly would not have known this, is that a sense of touch is an essential tool for survival. This can be seen from smallest single cell organisms through to the Blue Whale, the largest living creature found on Planet Earth. Irrespective of size, when they touch an object, be it inanimate or otherwise, they immediately recoil in case it is a threat or merely something to be eaten.

“The organ of touch is unique amongst the senses. In the other senses, the material is neutral respect to the range in question: the eye jelly, for example, is colourless, the air in the ear silent. Touch, in contrast, inevitably possesses some of the qualities among his own range.”

There is a level of truth in this, however it must be noted that Aristotle was not aware that skin is the largest organ in the human body and that some form of membrane needs to exist in order to sense the environment around it. However, unlike the other sense organs, touch is an active process: external forces act upon an Organism, provoking a response. Touch is rarely passive, although it can be accidental. The process is dynamic, and that its most powerful can elicit significant physical and/or emotional changes in a person or animal.   
 Haptic memory has been explored in significant detail over the last several years with the work by Hutmacher and Kuhnbandner (Hutmacher, 2018) being one of the more recent studies. The effects on both short- and long-term memory are significant as they suggest that muscle memory and the limbic system may reinforce neural pathways, memory capacity and knowledge retention. The findings are that the sense of touch generates memories that are far more complex and longer lasting than scientists previously thought.  
 In addition, work by Rutland (Rutland, 2013) has discovered that the human finger is highly sensitive in perceiving different materials and textures, with fingertips capable of distinguishing changed in height of approximately 10 nanometres, demonstrating that human tactile discrimination extends to the nano scale.

## Vision

[T]he eye of the visual digital artist resembles that of a cinematographer. He or she seeks to peer deeply into nature’s spontaneity in order to discern the intricacies of color variations in relation to light and movement, as well as the movement of things through space, so that layer upon layer of visual data can digitally emulate and simulate in some relevant measure the reality as seen through a lens.” (Giralt, 2017)

# Bibliography

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