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Allegory of the House cats

A mixed-media miniature alternative version
of Plato's Allegory of the Cave

Created by Anna Sivera van der Sluis



Background

The allegory of the cave is created by Socrates in conversation with his student Plato.

In the original context, the allegory is part of a conversation about an ideal society. This society is based on wisdom and ruled by philosopher kings, who are enlightened with this wisdom.

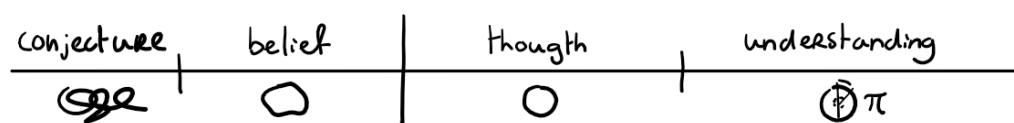
Nevertheless, the illustrated allegory can be interpreted with many different contexts or elaborating thought experiments in mind. The addressed topics, such as knowledge and wisdom, are especially interesting from an epistemological perspective.

The allegory of the cave is in essence a story about a person that becomes enlightened with knowledge, and based on...

Simile of the Sun



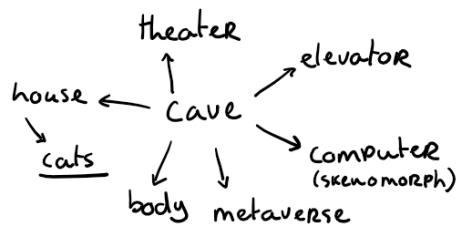
Analogy of the Divided Line



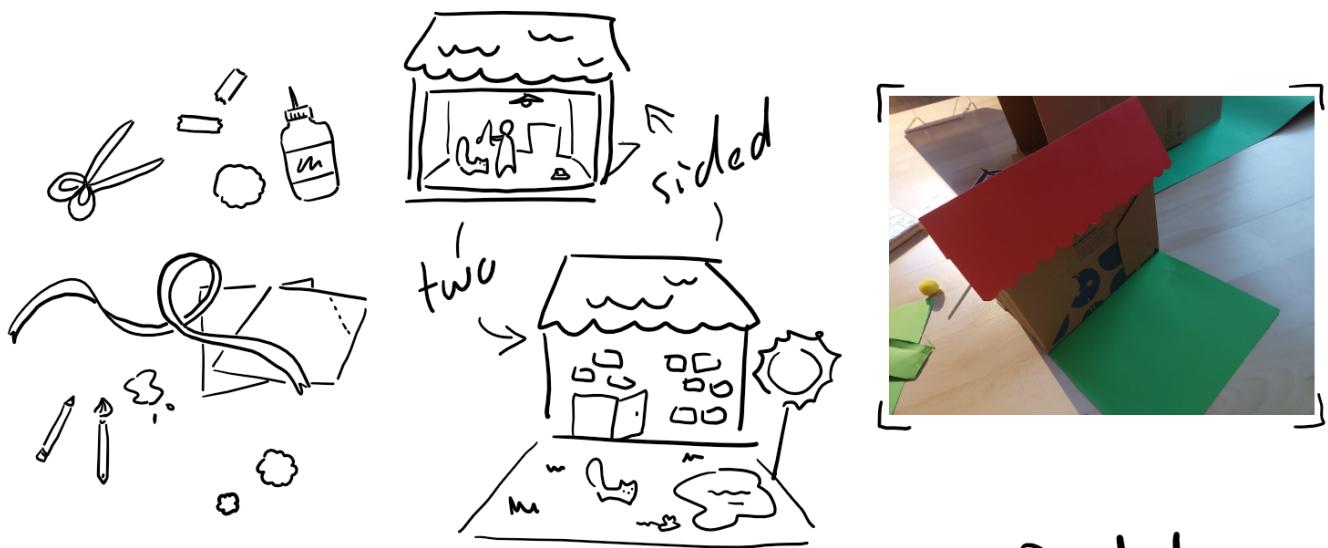
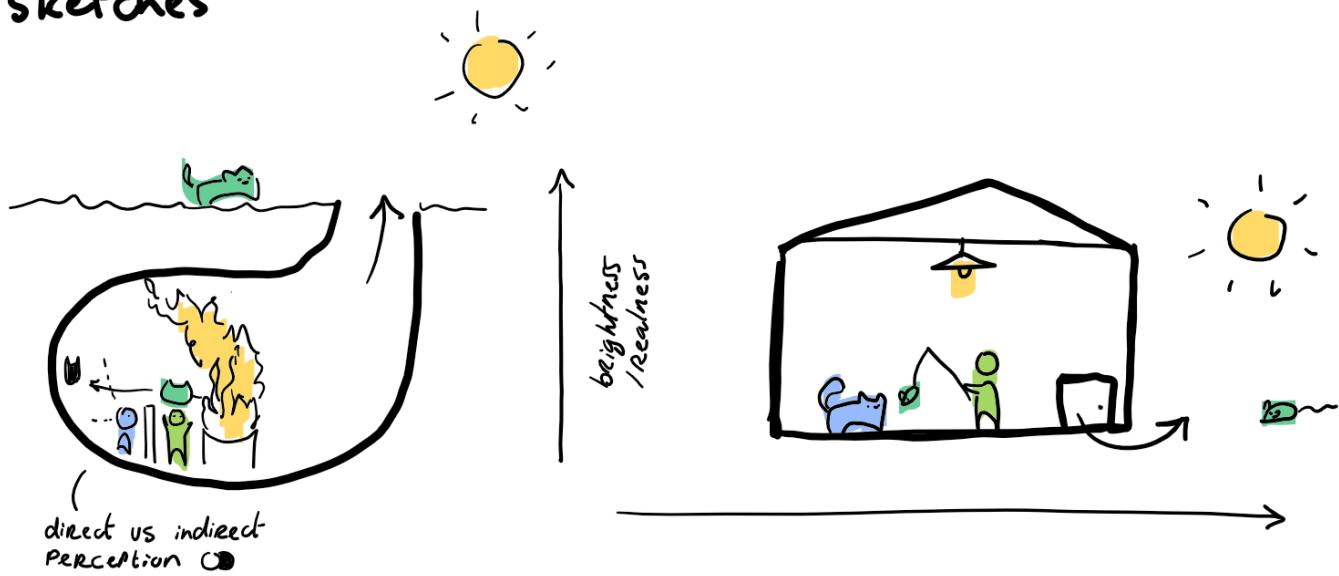
Process

I wanted to recreate the cave from the allegory as a three-dimensional miniature, wherein the spacial properties embody the different perspectives on reality. Furthermore, I wanted to make an additional translation by orchestrating a more modern and familiar situation as an alternative cave.

brainstorm



Sketches



Prototype

Final

house (cave)

cats (prisoners)

human (actor)

Lamp/sun

waterbowl / pond

canned tuna / fresh tuna

cat toy / mouse



Final

cat (enlightened)

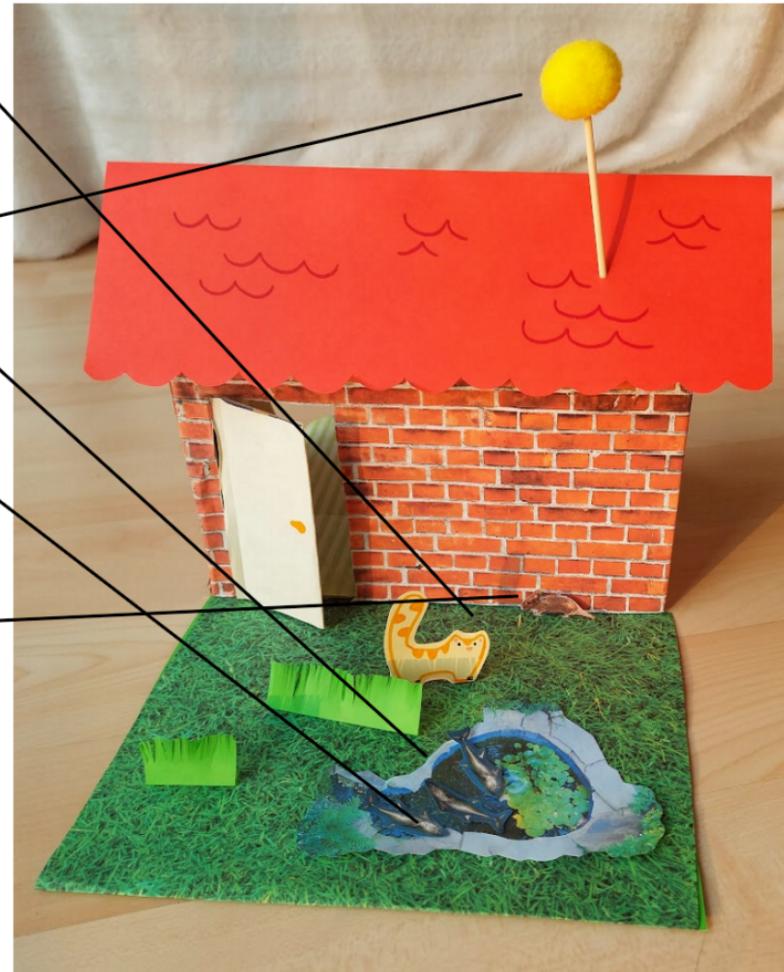
Lamp/sun

waterbowl/ pond

canned tuna/ fresh tuna

cat toy / mouse

In the house and the outside garden, a lot of mirroring figures can be found. One being a reflection or shadow of the other.



Sources

Eyer, S. (Trans.). (n.d.). The allegory of the cave. Harvard University.

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