

In perceiving an event, we alter that event to suit our own purposes. In making an image of an event, we apply this alteration of the real to the image-making process. Thus, in perceiving an image of a non-fictional event, we generate a perception that is twice removed from the actual event. How much of the meaning perceived in a non-fiction image is derived from the subject matter, and how much is derived from formal visual elements? Where does the real become abstract?

ants under a mushroom, an interactive collage in which the participant "paints" with moving and still images, addresses these issues by examining the relationship between the formal elements of a non-fiction image and its content, and in the process examines the notion that an image can be real (non-fictional, representational) or non-real (abstract).

