

Stare at the black dot in the middle of the rainbow for 20-30 seconds. Then look away at a white wall or ceiling. WHAT DO YOU SEE?



This phenomenon is called an afterimage. The color receptors in your eyes work in pairs (red/green, blue/yellow, etc.). When you stare at the drawing and one color fatigues your receptors, the other receptor will step in and dominate for a bit.

Image from *Spectropia; or, Surprising Spectral Illusions. Showing ghosts everywhere, and of any color.* London, 1864. Cotsen Children's Library, Department of Special Collections, Princeton University Library.