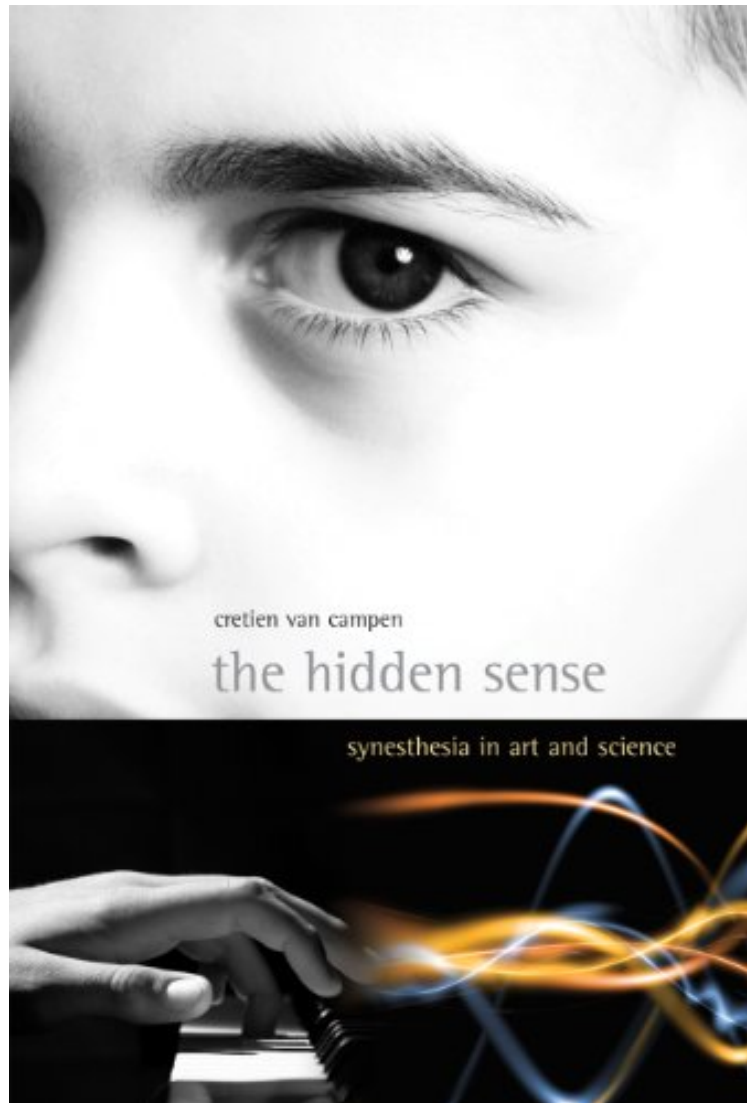


[Free] The Hidden Sense: Synesthesia in Art and Science (Leonardo Book Series)

The Hidden Sense: Synesthesia in Art and Science (Leonardo Book Series)

Cretien van Campen

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Cretien van Campen : The Hidden Sense: Synesthesia in Art and Science (Leonardo Book Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden Sense: Synesthesia in Art and Science (Leonardo Book Series):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Great for Artists, Different Learners, and Their Admirers By Jokie X Wilson This is the most complete, clear, and concise book on this topic that I have found to date. The anecdotal evidence is thorough without dominating the text. The explanation of what synesthesia is and is not is superb. The discussion about artists is intelligent and never gets corny. The art supplied as examples is not so much a review of

great masters, but some imagery that clearly illustrates the concepts. While the book reflects the limitations of what is currently known about synesthesia, it is as contemporary as anything else I have read. It's an up-to-date, great read that will leave you prepared for what may be discovered next with this fascinating phenomenon. Please see also my review of *Synesthesia: Perspectives from Cognitive Neuroscience*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Now You See It. Now You Don't By Runner Up This was a great help in my research for my second novel. Highly recommended. Interesting layout and information within. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. interesting...but slightly repetitive By Srinath Ravichandran Liked the real life examples. Liked the comprehensive analysis. Liked the detailed description of theories to explain synesthesia. At times I found it a little repetitive though. Overall a good book to make the concept, nature of synesthesia less of a foreign topic to non synesthetes.

What does it mean to hear music in colors, to taste voices, to see each letter of the alphabet as a different color? These uncommon sensory experiences are examples of synesthesia, when two or more senses cooperate in perception. Once dismissed as imagination or delusion, metaphor or drug-induced hallucination, the experience of synesthesia has now been documented by scans of synesthetes' brains that show "crosstalk" between areas of the brain that do not normally communicate. In *The Hidden Sense*, Cretien van Campen explores synesthesia from both artistic and scientific perspectives, looking at accounts of individual experiences, examples of synesthesia in visual art, music, and literature, and recent neurological research. Van Campen reports that some studies define synesthesia as a brain impairment, a short circuit between two different areas. But synesthetes cannot imagine perceiving in any other way; many claim that synesthesia helps them in daily life. Van Campen investigates just what the function of synesthesia might be and what it might tell us about our own sensory perceptions. He examines the experiences of individual synesthetes -- from Patrick, who sees music as images and finds the most beautiful ones spring from the music of Prince, to the schoolgirl Sylvia, who is surprised to learn that not everyone sees the alphabet in colors as she does. And he finds suggestions of synesthesia in the work of Scriabin, Van Gogh, Kandinsky, Nabokov, Poe, and Baudelaire. What is synesthesia? It is not, van Campen concludes, an audiovisual performance, a literary technique, an artistic trend, or a metaphor. It is, perhaps, our hidden sense -- a way to think visually; a key to our own sensitivity.

"In *The Hidden Sense*, Cretien van Campen, a self-styled naturalist of synaesthesia, explores this ground, providing a gentle, insightful, often personal, account of coloured words, smells, tones, pains, even orgasms, that will fascinate scientists, artists, synaesthetes and others. Slowly, this deep, seemingly intractable, subjectivity yields to some phenomenology, simple questionnaires, elegant experiments, a dash of neuroimaging, and much thought and reflection." — Chris McManus, Professor of Psychology and Medical Education at University College London, *Nature* "Van Campen is a social scientist with some synaesthesia, who has thought deeply about the phenomenon, read widely, consulted leading scientists, and interviewed and tested ordinary and artistic people with many types of synaesthesia. 'Cases have been reported of synaesthetes who feel coloured pain, hear odours, hear tastes, taste sounds, feel sounds on their skin, hear images, and taste images', van Campen explains. He delves into this complexity with authority, subtlety, and charm, and the result is a generally accessible, concisely written, and thought provoking read." — Andrew Robinson, *The Lancet* "Strongly relying on the latest scientific experiments (brains scans) as well as on a lifelong personal research on and with synesthetes (persons being able of synesthetic perception), the author manages to offer a discussion of synesthesia that is of interest for the specialists as well as for the broader public.... The author's way of arguing finds always a good balance between direct experience (the testimonies of the many synesthetes with whom he has been working for many years now) and the scientific results of cognitive and neuroscientific research (of which he is able of giving very clear and readable reports and syntheses)." — Jan Baetens, Professor of Literary Studies at the Leuven University, Belgium, *Leonardo* "Even readers already familiar with synesthesia will find much to learn from Cretien van Campen's *The Hidden Sense: Synesthesia in Art and Science*. In clear and lucid prose, van Campen provides shimmering descriptions of synesthetic experiences as he explores the complex interplay between synesthesia in science and, especially, synesthesia in the arts. Although several of van Campen's stances on the science of synesthesia are debatable and controversial, agree with them or not, reading *The Hidden Sense* will broaden and deepen one's understanding of this fascinating set of phenomena." — Lawrence E. Marks, Director, John B. Pierce Laboratory, and Professor of Epidemiology and Psychology, Yale University "This is an extremely interesting, current, and well-written book that highlights a fascinating topic in synaesthesia research, namely the translation of synesthetes' experiences into art." — Hinderk Emrich, Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Hannover University, Germany "This slim, sparkling, sonorous volume is wonderfully rich and attention-holding. *The Hidden Sense* will be of profound interest to cognitive scientists, musicians, and other artists for the dialogue it enjoins between their respective domains of expertise. But it will especially appeal to the general reader for the lucidity of its exposition of the art and science of synesthesia, and the lively accounts it contains of the everyday experience of synesthetes in their own words." — David Howes, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University About the Author Cretien van Campen is a Senior Researcher at the Social and Cultural Planning Office of the Netherlands. He is the author of two books on perception

and visual art.