

Insight on the Rorschach

“In the development of *sight*, the sense of most immediate relevance to the understanding of Rorschach’s test and especially of the rationale of the determinants, the transition from the autocentric [person centered] to the predominantly allocentric [outer world centered] functioning is characterized by a number of gradual changes, especially significant are the following changes:

1. From a relatively minor role of the sense of sight as compared to touch, taste, smell, proprioception (especially kinesthetic) and visceroreception to a predominant position of sight, a development that continues up to the age of eight or nine years.
2. From the *reacting passively to impinging stimuli to active turning toward visual stimuli*. This includes:
 3. *From the unfocused gaze or stare to the focused “looking at”* and to following a moving object with the eye is an important development.
 4. The change from predominantly wanting to abolish or avoid stimulation, because most or many stimuli are felt as unpleasant or as causing discomfort, to increasing maintenance or seeking out of visual stimuli. This goes together with
 5. Increasing pleasure and interest in an increasing scope and variety of stimuli starts.
 6. The change from the perception, only or mostly, of light, darkness, color, striking contrasts, and global patterns to the gradual development and refinement of the perception of distinct form and structure.
 7. From fusion of sensory quality and pleasure-unpleasure (comfort-discomfort) and lack of distinction of within and without to an increasing separation of within (bodily and other sensations and feelings) and without (an independent, although at first not very differentiated object-world). All the changes mentioned so far contribute to the important development
 8. From the rather undifferentiated perception of an impinging and objectless visual field, not experienced as separate from an as-yet undeveloped self, to increasing objectification of gradually expanding variety, distinction, and richness. This also requires the change
 9. From undifferentiated total sensations to increasing coordination and experiential separation of the various senses, especially touch and sight.
 10. The increasing objectification involves the change from undifferentiated, global object perception to increasing perception of distinct object features (more emphasis on detail, greater accuracy of form perception, distinction of different visual qualities).
 11. All of these developments contribute to the change from undifferentiated, total re-sensation (“*deja vécu* experience of familiarity) to the importance or re-cognition, based on a

distinct visual Gestalt with distinct features, (Schachtel, E 1966 pp. 84-86).

Form Perception: The *typical attitude* in which the majority of form responses given by most people (Is) a *neutral, matter-of-fact, objective, detached* quality in relation to the precept (Schachtel, E. 1966, pp. 94-95)”?

Space: “A sense of insecurity is often present in responses in which the white space is seen as a hole in the figure (Schachtel, E 1966, p. 137)”.

“A sense of hollowness, emptiness, or of wanting to destroy or of having been destroyed may also be expressed by the perceptual emphasis on the space as a hole or a hollow (Schachtel, E. 1966, p. 137)”.

“Neither the words of the responses nor their technical scoring alone can be substituted for the concrete visualizations of what nor how the subject has perceived. Unfortunately, such visualization of another person’s perceptions is possible only approximately, and the degrees of approximation to the original perception vary in accordance with the astuteness as well as the individuality of the observer (Schachtel, E. 1966, p. 141)”.