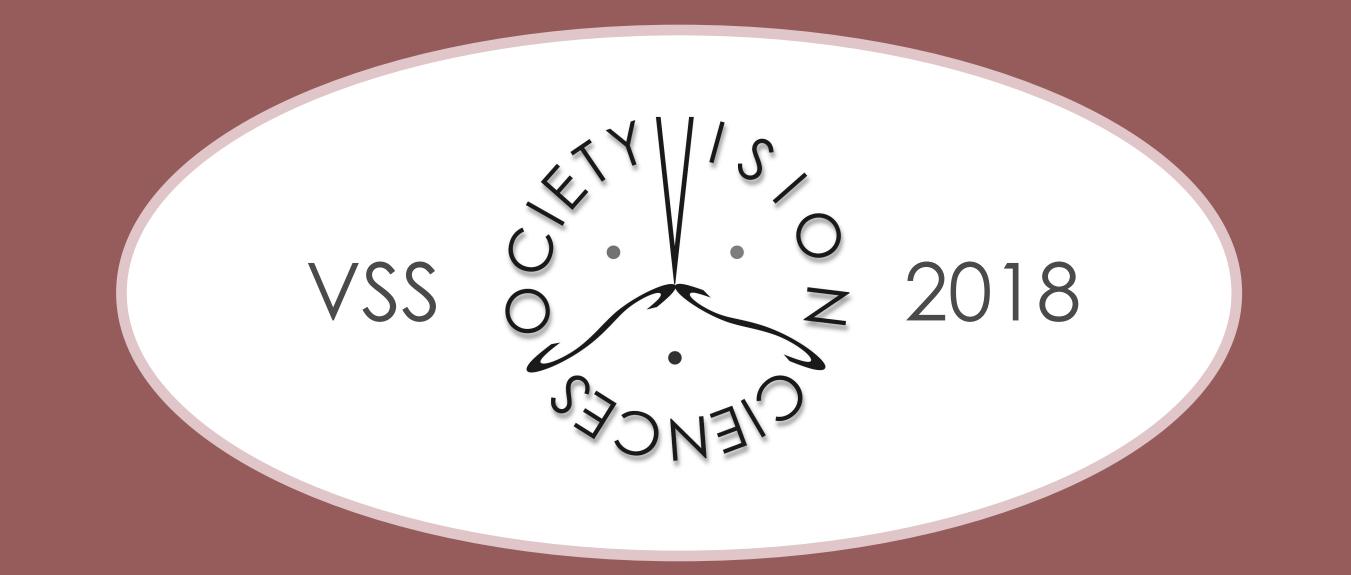


# Looking into the future:

An inward bias in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues

Yi-Chia Chen<sup>1,2</sup>, Clara Colombatto<sup>2</sup>, & Brian Scholl<sup>2</sup> (¹Harvard University & ²Yale University)

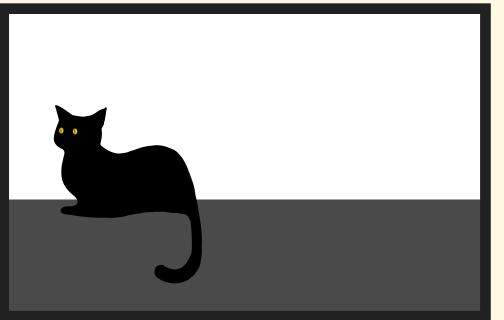


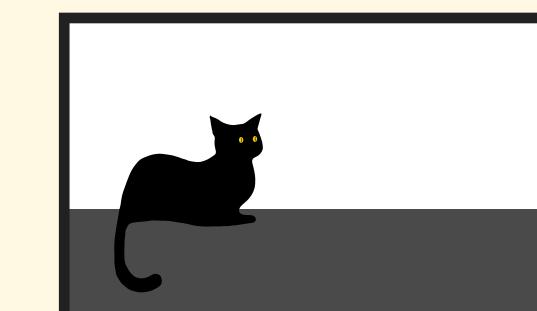
#### Question

Why do we have aesthetic experience?

#### An Inward Bias in Aesthetics

Which is more aesthetically pleasing?



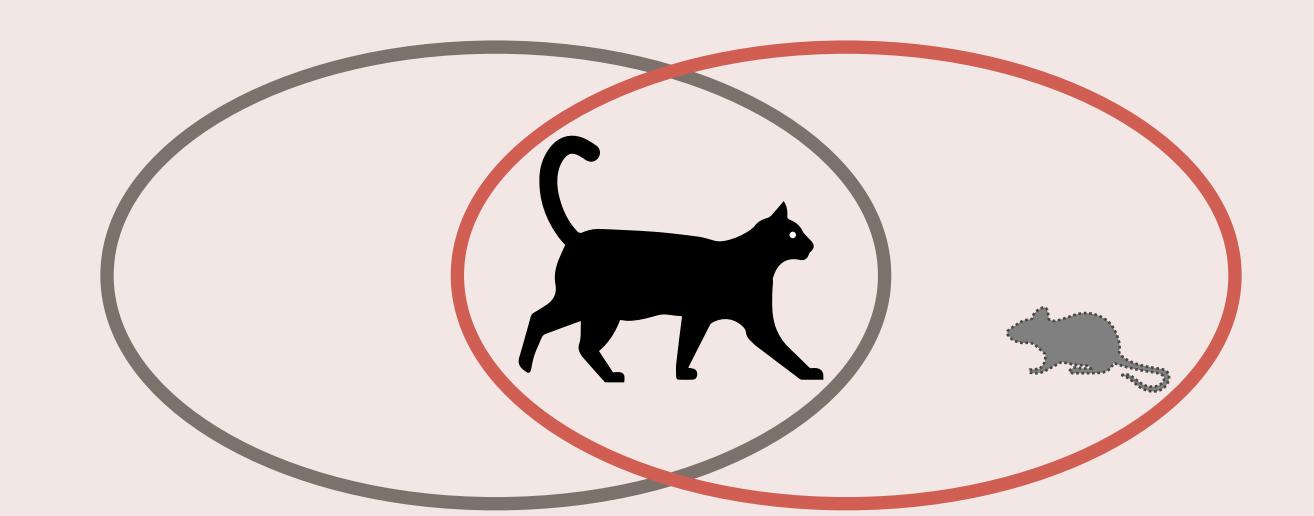


Facing outward

Facing inward

(Palmer et al., 2008, Spatial Vision)

## An Adaptive Feature?

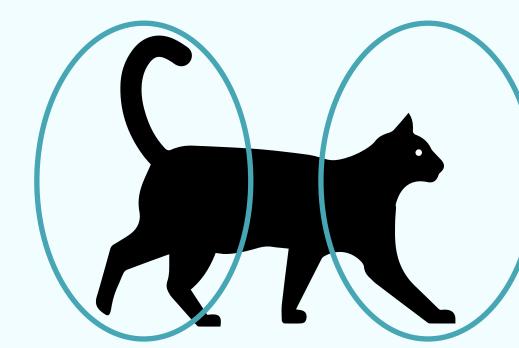


## Looking into the Future?

We prefer viewpoints that will let us see predicted future events unfold

## Stimuli

### Main Difficulty



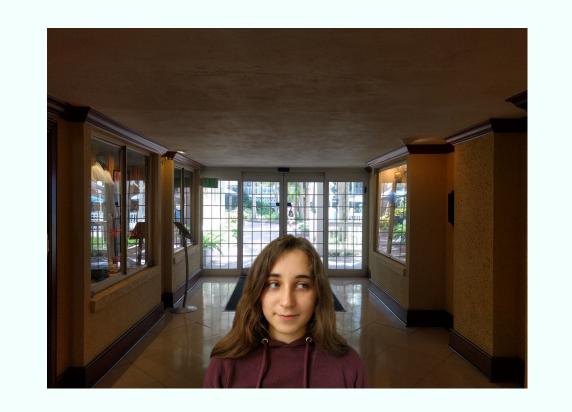


Global shape confounds Gaze: Minimal changes

Solution

## Adjustment Task

"Position the person so that the photo looks maximally aesthetically pleasing"









## Dependent Measure

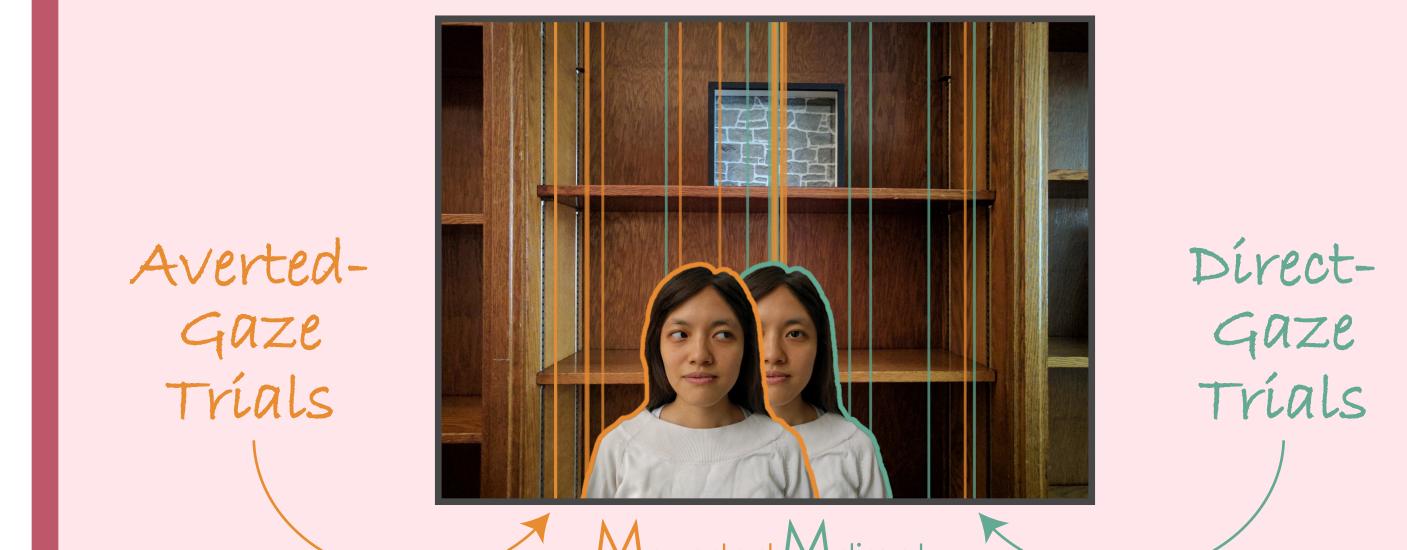
% position shift =

position shift

maximum shift

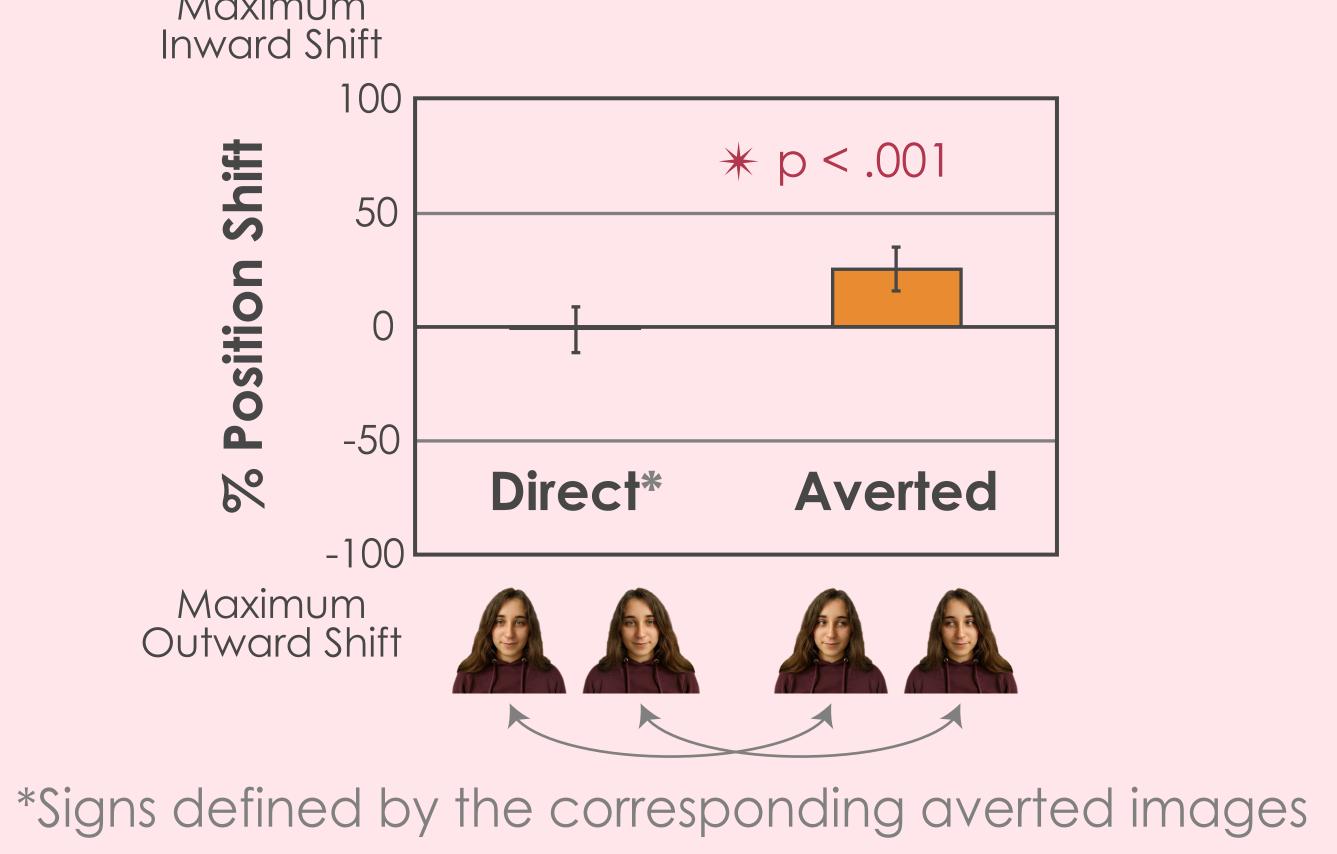
## Experiment 1

### Individual Responses



## Group Data

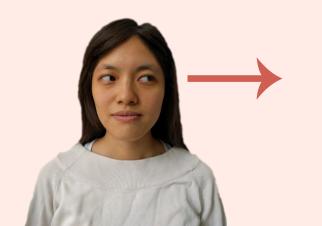
Trials



An inward bias driven only by averted gaze!

## Experiment 2

## Control for Geometric Factors





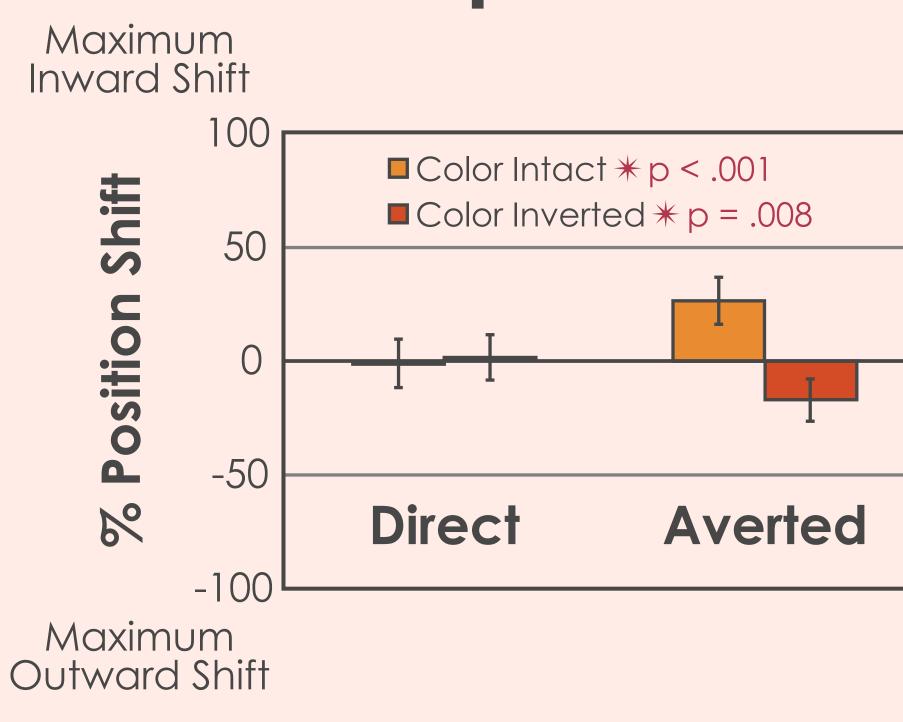
Manipulate perceived gaze direction

#### Individual Responses





#### Group Data



This is driven by perceived gaze direction per se

## Conclusions

Inward biases can be driven by minimal directional cues

This aesthetic preference may help us 'look into the future'

> Aesthetic preferences can be adaptive!

## Reprint?

in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues. Cognition, 176, 209-214.