



# AURA & SYNESTHESIA

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**Synesthesia** is a condition in which otherwise normal people experience the blending of two or more senses. Perhaps it occurs because of cross activation, in which two normally separate areas of the brain elicit activity in each other.

An **aura**, according to New Age metaphysics, is a colored outline, or set of contiguous outlines, allegedly emanating from the surface of an object. An aura is "an invisible emanation or vapor" or "a particular atmosphere or quality that seems to arise from and surround a person or thing".

## TYPES OF AURA

### Esoteric aura:

The aura is a fundamental part of knowledge for a being's development. We discover our true inner state through the aura, which is an energy field that we emanate. We can know not only those more material matters but also those more spiritual matters. This is because the aura is divided in seven scales or layers directly related to the seven chakras. This is a person's attribute (*primary attribute*).

### Synaesthetic aura:

It consists of the perception of light and colour auras around the items or in the observer's mind. It does not necessarily have to do with supposed "energy fields". It is a synaesthetic property (*secondary attribute*).

The synesthetes people can see colors related to people or like reaction words like "love" or "hatred". Therefore, these colors do not necessary reflect the supposed power fields that emit the organisms, but are created by the brain of the person who sees the picture.

There is a study that describes a young person, identified only by his initials (GW), that saw different colors like reaction from people that already knew. The names brought about the appearance of a color that covered all the field of vision of GW, and the people at issue seemed to radiate a colored aura. (Ward, 2004)

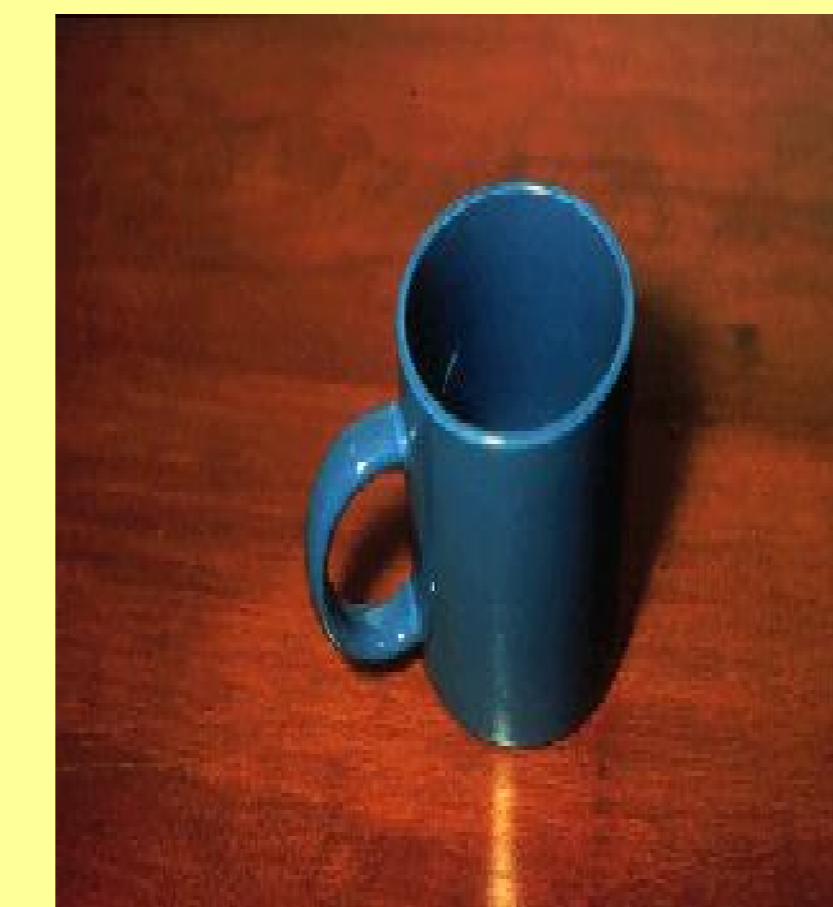
A second study is the realized one with R. R is a 20 year old color blind subject who, in addition to the relatively common grapheme-color synaesthesia, presents a rarely reported cross modal perception in which a variety of visual stimuli elicit aura-like percepts of color. In R, photisms seem to be closely related to the affective valence of stimuli and typically bring out a consistent pattern of emotional responses. The present case study suggests that colors might be an intrinsic category of the human brain. (Milan et al, 2007)

Next, a short research carried out with a young synaesthete person will be given. A 23 years old student, whose initials are M.J. shows synaesthesia related to the perception of colours, smells, flavours and basically the aura of the people.

As you will notice in the following column, we have made a comparison between the two synaesthete people, M.J and R. Each picture appears with the colour, emotion and valence that each of them have perceived when seeing it, once the researcher has shown them the pictures.

### REFERENCES:

- Ward, J. (2004). Emotionally mediated synaesthesia. *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, vol. 21, pages 761-772
- Milan, hochel et al. (2007). Experimental study of phantom colours in a colour blind synaesthete. *Journal of consciousness studies*. Vol 14, nº 4, pp 75-79



|  | COLOR | EMOTION | VAL. PHOTO |
|--|-------|---------|------------|
|--|-------|---------|------------|

|     |                           |                       |       |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| M.J | GREEN<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(8) | CALMNESS/<br>SERENITY | 7     |
| R.  | RED<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(7.5) | ATTRACTIVE            | (6.2) |

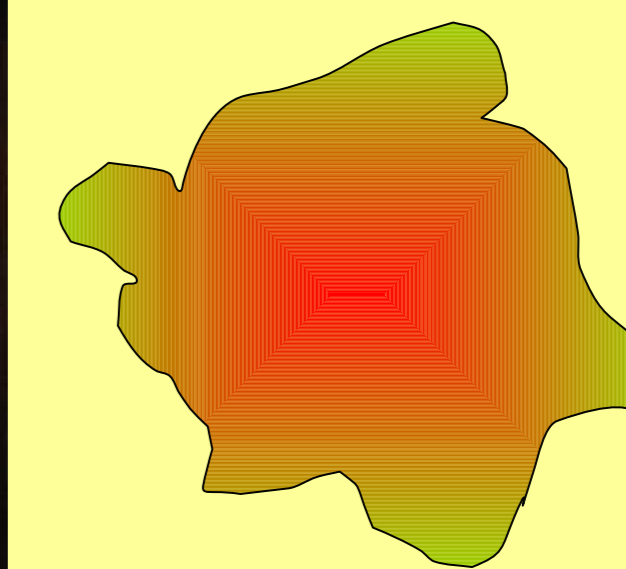
|     |                                       |            |       |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| M.J | SHINING<br>ORANGE<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(7) | COMPLICITY | 6     |
| R.  | RED<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(7.5)             | ATTRACTIVE | (6.2) |

|     |                                       |                  |     |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| M.J | ORANGE<br>CLEARLY<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(6) | PRIDE            | 3   |
| R.  | GREEN<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(3)             | DISAGREEABL<br>E | (4) |

|     |                           |           |     |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------|-----|
| M.J | BLUE<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(7)  | LONELYNES | 1   |
| R.  | BROWN<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(5) | BORING    | (4) |

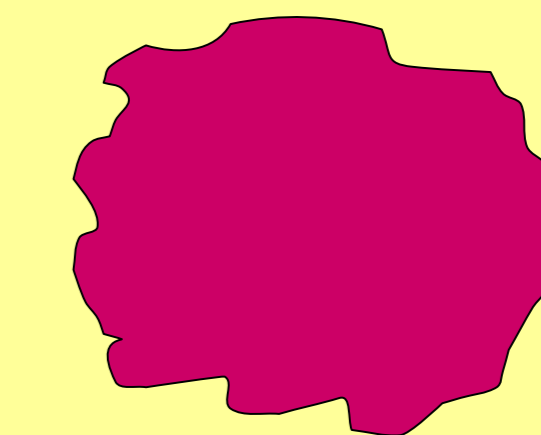
|     |                            |            |       |
|-----|----------------------------|------------|-------|
| M.J | GRAY<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(3)   | DESOLATION | 2     |
| R.  | YELLOW<br>VAL.COLOR<br>(7) | PAIN       | (5.4) |

Next we show three images, on which, our subject M.J has given a judgement indicating the form of the perceived aura as well as the colour and smell that these pictures transmit to him.



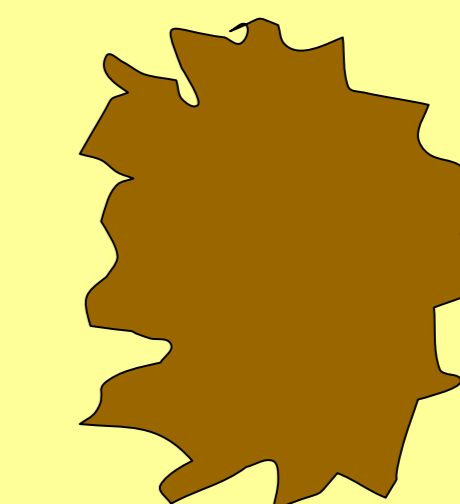
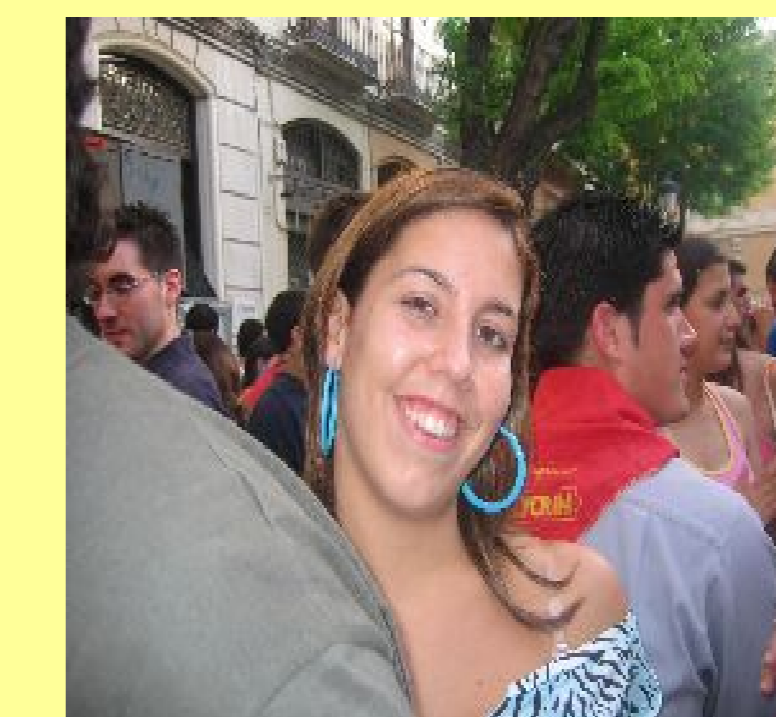
**COLOR:**  
Reddish green

**SMELL:**  
mandarin



**COLOR:**  
Pink strawberry

**SMELL:**  
Jasmín



**COLOR:**  
Brown caramel

**SMELL:**  
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## CONCLUSION

After the obtained results, with the comparison of both studies it is proved that synaesthesia, and in particular the perception of the aura, must be considered like a secondary attribute, since two different synaesthete people give different judgements in the presence of the same picture. That is to say, they see the aura of a different colour.