

Fernando Pessoa

Contents of each sensation:

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sensation of the exterior universe.
sensation of the object sensed at the time.
objective ideas associated therewith.
subjective ideas associated therewith (state of mind at the time).
the temperament and mental basis of the senser
the abstract phenomenon of consciousness.

Thus each sensation is a cube, which may be considered as set down upon the side representing F, having the side representing A upwards. The other sides are of course B, C, D and E.

Now this cube may be looked at in three manners:

- 1) on one side only, so that none of the others is seen;
- 2) with one side of a square held parallel to the eyes, so that two sides or the cube are seen;
- 3) with one apex held in front of the eyes, so that three sides are seen.

From an objective standpoint, the Cube of Sensation is composed of:

Ideas = lines
Images (internal) = planes
Images of objects = solids

Looked at in way 1, the cube of sensations resolves itself to a square, so that the basis of art will be ideas, and images of objects, quâ mental images. This is classic art, which, contrary to what is thought, does not go directly to nature, but to the mental image thereof (...).

1916?

Páginas Íntimas e de Auto-Interpretação. Fernando Pessoa. (Textos estabelecidos e prefaciados por Georg Rudolf Lind e Jacinto do Prado Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1966: 180.