

# Sense of the Imagination

(preliminary thoughts)

*reality is our lover — the imagination  
is an organ of copulation.*

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As a conceptual exercise:

If we think of cognition as the transformation of latent reality into reality-as-experienced (enaction), then consider the task of plotting that transformation on a graph, we might say that:

Each of our "senses" could be said to determine the location of any given moment of experience along its particular axis of "measurement".

The potential richness of our experienced reality would be determined by the number of dimensions (axes of "measurement") our "senses" enacted and the intensity with which they were engaged.

But, of course, our "senses" are complex processes which could themselves be "plotted" in multi-dimensional graphs. "Vision" for instance consists of many subprocesses bundled and enhanced by our "mind".

Bio-complexity increases with and through the emergence of higher level cognitive processes and structural changes which bundle and enhance lower level cognitive processes into (for example) perceptions. Think: evolution.

The "mind" emerges from the structure and activity of the brain as a similarly complex process, giving us our sense of continuity and structural integrity -- our sense of "self" -- by bundling and enhancing brain activity.

The "imagination" appears to have emerged from the process we call "mind" as a sense of the poetic dimensions of latent reality -- that is, a sense of the marvelous. A sense of the process itself and the potential for revelation which lurks in the relationships between the apparently unrelated.

(1999)