THE ROTATING FACE

Here is how to use a Halloween mask to make a scary optical illusion.

You need:
A Halloween mask
Paint
Lamp or other light source

What to do
On the inside of a Halloween mask, use crayons or watercolors, or other kinds of paint to color the lips red, cheeks pink, and eyes blue. Darken the eyebrows. Hang the mask on a wall, painted side out. Illuminate it with light from below. Step a few yards away. It is impossible not to see it as a normal face, instead of one turned inside out.
Now move from side to side. Horrors! The face will seem to rotate as you move! And it will seem to turn so it always faces you!

Why does it work?
This is one of the most eerie of all optical illusions. The light from below isn’t essential, but it strengthens the convexity of the mask, producing shadows where you would normally see them on a real face with light coming from above. Because you never see a human face turned inside out, like the inside of a mask, your experience makes it impossible to see the painted mask as anything but a normal convex face. Take the face’s nose, for example. If you moved right, you would see the left side of the nose. But on the inside-out mask, if you move right, you see the other side of the nose. This makes it seem as if the face is rotating. Why it seems to rotate as you move would take several pages to explain.