

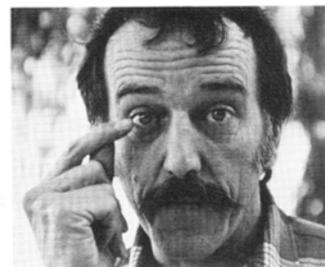
Light is the only thing you can see.

Anti-Gravity Mirror

Bob strolls over to the large mirror that makes up the *Anti-Gravity Mirror* exhibit. "I often end the inside Image Walk at the *Anti-Gravity Mirror*, because it gets back to something that everyone's familiar with: an ordinary mirror like your bathroom mirror at home. You look in the mirror, and you see yourself standing on the other side of the glass, even though you know you're not standing over there at all. You can't *not* see yourself there, because all you can see is light. And if you have light coming into your eye, you're going to see something out there whether the thing is out there or not.

"There's another example that might help convince you that all you see is light. If you look at the corner of an aquarium from a certain angle, you can see two fish in the tank, even though you know that there's only one fish in there. The light that's reflecting from the fish bends as it moves from water to air. But all you can see is the light that goes in your eye. You assume that the light came into your eye in a straight line from wherever it started, which fortunately is the case most of the time. But when you look into an aquarium, the light doesn't travel straight. You can't see that the light bent before it got into your eye. Because of the way the light bent, you see the fish in two different places, when it's really not in either place.

"You see the world around you because



of the light that's coming into your eye. That light must contain all the information about the scene—the complete detail and color and texture and everything—because otherwise you wouldn't be able to see all those details.

"Right now, my eye is intercepting light that carries all that information. If I move out of the way, there's still light going through this little area in space, right here where my eye used to be. And that light contains all the information needed to construct the complete scene. No matter where I move my head, my eyes gather all the information about the complete scene. And all that information is contained in the light.

"My eye intercepts the little bit of light that's going through this little area in space, and I see the world out there with all its textures and colors. But all I'm really seeing is just that little bit of light. That's all I *can* see. And in some mysterious way, I 'project' this visual perception back on the real world. To me, that's miraculous." □