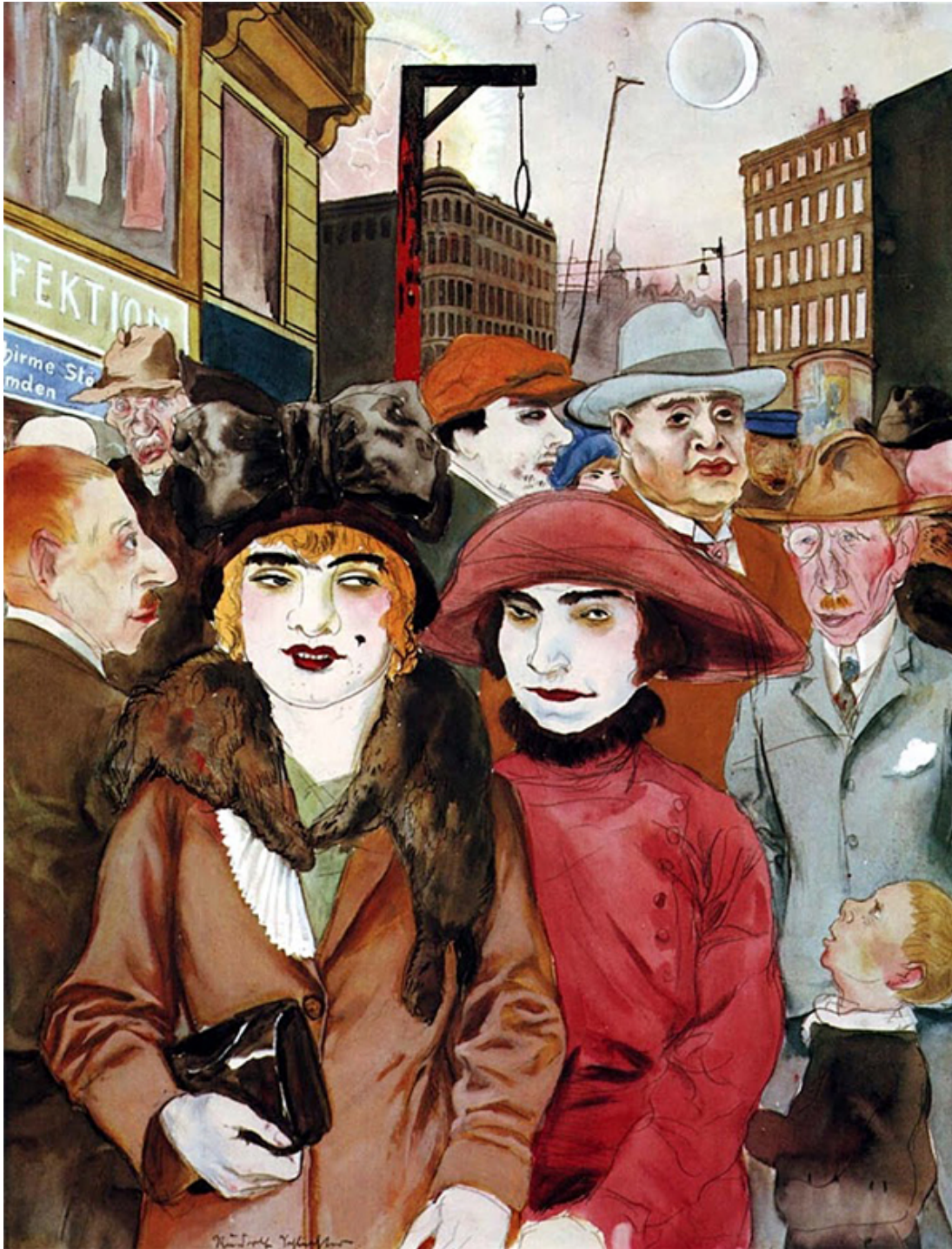


# Utterly Corrupted or Incurably Dense

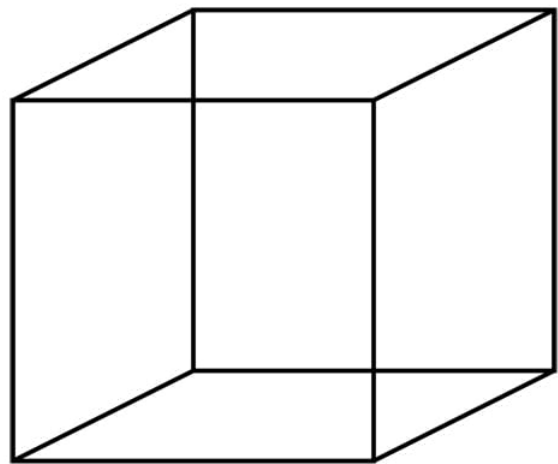
by [Robert Gear](#) (August 2020)



*Hausvogteiplatz*, Rudolf Schlichter, 1926

**I have been staring at** the famous illusion known as the Necker Cube Ambiguous Figure. Somewhat incongruously, this led me to consider the antics of the person who was elected US President in 2008 and stayed in that position for a seemingly interminable eight years. He and his “scandal-free” administration are an enigma difficult to entirely solve. The actions of this person, chosen by the American electorate to be chief executive, and of those individuals he surrounded himself with, including a person who ran unsuccessfully against the current chief executive, have always incited, in me at least, a strong sense of ambiguity about his (and their) real motivations.

Let me explain what I mean. The Necker Cube belongs to the class of illusions (there are many such) whereby a two-dimensional figure can be seen in two or more sharply distinct ways. This illusion can appear as a cube oriented in different directions, or simply as a flat 2-D pattern. Which is it? My question about the above-



mentioned deep state agents is similar. Do the actions of these people emerge from utter corruption or just plain stupidity, or is it that they have no inward life at all, like a two-dimensional figure?

In the introduction of the 1912 Everyman edition of the deceptively haphazard novel by Lawrence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*. The introduction, by George Saintsbury, a once well-known writer and literary historian, makes the following deft observation about Sterne’s daughter:

Only an *utterly corrupted heart, or an incurably dense or feather-brained head* (italics added), could hide from her the fact that not a few of the English letters she

published were damaging to her father's character.

Saintsbury here succinctly pinpoints an enigma that pervades our own times and perhaps all times. Note though that the connotation of "utterly corrupted heart" could exclude or include "incurable dense or feather-brained head." And it may be that there is some kind of continuum ranging from stupidity to wickedness. Some people oscillate between these two poles; between which perhaps everyone should be cognizant of the danger of sliding.

Are the actions of some of the ruling controllers utterly corrupt or just dense and feather-brained? And certainly, the same can be asked of a whole range of people who like to think of themselves as liberals—or something worse.

Let us observe the current batch of Hollywood movie idols or even some of the political and media hacks whose *argumentum ad Trumpum*, usually dispensed with theatrical grimness, infects their every word and action. One is constantly beguiled by the question "are they one or the other or both?" Do they have utterly corrupted hearts *only*, or are their heads incurably dense or feather-brained *only*? Or do they give vent to both these attributes, obligingly coiling in and out of their peculiar oozings to suit the current moment of their often rabid fantasies? We might also want to know whether they practice such buffoonery at home or do they just play buffoons on TV?

About the pronouncements of the movie stars whose expertise rarely stretches beyond their rabbit-hutch corner of the motion-picture industry, I think we can say that they have mainly feather-brained heads; typically perhaps, they mean no real harm. They say stunningly preposterous things to keep their names before those members of the public who have heard of them, or for virtue signaling amongst their occupational chums and playmates (perverted or not). Some exceptions exist,

as when the silliness spills over into real nastiness of a kind that might lead to physical harm. But a cursory perusal of the emanations of these individuals suggests that they are not so much *utterly* corrupted, just feather-brained and incurably dense. Often, it seems that the “greater” the matinee idol or their female counterpart, the more insufferable they are when voicing “their” reflections about the strange world they inhabit, or the real world beyond their ken.

Just a thought, but conceivably it is the “great” actors who have less integrity, whose center is less able to hold, *since their special skill is always acting out someone else*