

# Benjamin F. van Buren

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## Academic Appointments

- 2019 - present      Assistant Professor  
The New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2018 - 2019        Post-doctoral Research Fellow  
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

## Education

- 2018                Ph.D., Cognitive Psychology  
Yale University, New Haven, CT  
Advisor: Brian Scholl
- 2012                B.A., Philosophy, Cognitive Science, *summa cum laude*  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
Advisor: Anjan Chatterjee

## Honors

- 2019                Travel Fellowship, Academische Stichting Leuven
- 2018                Finalist, Best Illusion of the Year Contest
- 2017                Frederick Hilles Fellowship, Yale University
- 2016                Graduate Conference Travel Fellowship, Yale University
- 2014                NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2011                University Scholars Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2010                Robert Frances Award for Most Outstanding Student Research  
Contribution, International Association for Empirical Aesthetics
- 2010                Benjamin Franklin Scholars Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2010                Ruth Marcus Kanter Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2009                Mellon Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania

## **Publications**

Ritchie, J. B., and van Buren, B. (under review). When scenes look like materials: The reversible figure-ground motif in the paintings of René Magritte.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (under review). Who's chasing whom?: Changing background motion reverses impressions of chasing in perceived animacy.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (under review). The 'Blindfold Test' for deciding whether an effect reflects visual processing or higher-level judgment.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2019). Intentionally distracting: Working memory is disrupted by the perception of other agents attending to you — even without eye-gaze cues. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 26, 951-957.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2018). Visual illusions as a tool for dissociating seeing from thinking. *Perception*, 47, 999-1001.

van Buren, B., Gao, T., and Scholl, B. J. (2017). What are the underlying units of perceived animacy?: Chasing detection is intrinsically object-based. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 24, 1604-1610.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2017). Minds in motion in memory: Enhanced spatial memory driven by the perceived animacy of simple shapes. *Cognition*, 163, 87-92.

van Buren, B., Uddenberg, S., and Scholl, B. J. (2016). The automaticity of perceiving animacy: Goal-directed motion in simple shapes influences visuomotor behavior even when task-irrelevant. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 23, 797-802.

van Buren, B., Bromberger, B., Potts, D., Miller, B., and Chatterjee, A. (2013). Changes in the painting styles of two artists with Alzheimer's disease. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 7, 89-94.

## **Presentations**

Ritchie, J. B., and van Buren, B. (2019). When scenes look like materials: The reversible figure-ground motif in the paintings of René Magritte. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Visual Science of Art Conference*, 8/23/19, Leuven, Belgium.

van Buren, B. (2019). Perceived intentionality as a Gestalt phenomenon: Grouping and global motion processing determine whether we see 'chasing' in simple shapes. Talk

given at the annual meeting of the *Belgian Association for Psychological Science*, 5/14/19, Liège, Belgium.

van Buren, B., Ritchie, J. B., and Wagemans, J. (2019). Drawing attention: Analysis of comics reveals capacity limits on event representations. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Concepts, Actions, and Objects workshop, 5/4/19, Rovereto, Italy.

van Buren, B. (2019). Perceiving minds in motion: The nature of perceived animacy. Talk given at Université Catholique de Louvain, 2/28/19, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2018). Who's chasing whom?: Changing background motion reverses impressions of chasing in perceived animacy. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *European Conference for Visual Perception*, 8/29/18, Trieste, Italy.

van Buren, B. (2018). Ownership of expressive properties. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Visual Science of Art Conference*, 8/24/18, Trieste, Italy.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2018). The 'Blindfold Test' for deciding whether an effect reflects visual processing or higher-level judgment. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/18, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 18(10), 56, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/18/10/56/> .]

van Buren, B. (2018). Empirical methods for studying aesthetic experience. Talk given at Albertus Magnus College, 3/19/18, New Haven, CT.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2017). The 'Blindfold Test' for deciding whether an effect reflects visual processing or higher-level judgment. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, 6/30/17, Baltimore, MD.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2017). 'Mind Contact': Might eye-gaze effects really reflect more general phenomena of perceived attention and intention? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/17, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 17(10), 60, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/17/10/60/> .]

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2017). Who's chasing whom?: Changing background motion reverses impressions of chasing in perceived animacy. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/17, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 17(10), 214, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/17/10/214/> .]

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2016). Minds in motion in memory: Enhanced spatial memory driven by the perceived animacy of simple shapes. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for Psychological Science*, 5/27/16, Chicago, IL.

van Buren, B., Gao, T., and Scholl, B. J. (2016). What are the underlying units of perceived animacy?: Chasing detection is intrinsically object-based. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/15/16, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 16(12), 394, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/16/12/394/> .]

van Buren, B., Uddenberg, S., and Scholl, B. J. (2015). The automaticity of perceiving animacy: Goal-directed motion in simple shapes influences visuomotor behavior even when task-irrelevant. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/19/15, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 15(12), 1187, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/content/15/12/1187/> .]

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2014). Perceived animacy influences other forms of visual processing. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/14, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 14(10), 1023, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/content/14/10/1023/> .]

van Buren, B. (2011). Modeling the functional development of human visual motion area MT+. Paper given at the annual meeting of the *International Conference on Natural Computation*, 7/26/11, Shanghai, China.

van Buren, B., Bromberger, B., Potts, D., Miller, B., and Chatterjee, A. (2010). Patterns of change in the painting styles of artists with Alzheimer's disease. Talk given at the biannual meeting of the *International Association for Empirical Aesthetics*, 8/28/10, Dresden, Germany.

## **Courses Taught**

Graduate: *Visual Perception & Cognition* (GPSY5102) and *Advanced Topics in Visual Cognition* (GPSY6441)

Undergraduate: *Fundamentals of Visual Perception* and *The Psychology of Aesthetics & Design*

## **References**

Johan Wagemans  
Brian Scholl  
Gregory McCarthy

KU Leuven  
Yale University  
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