

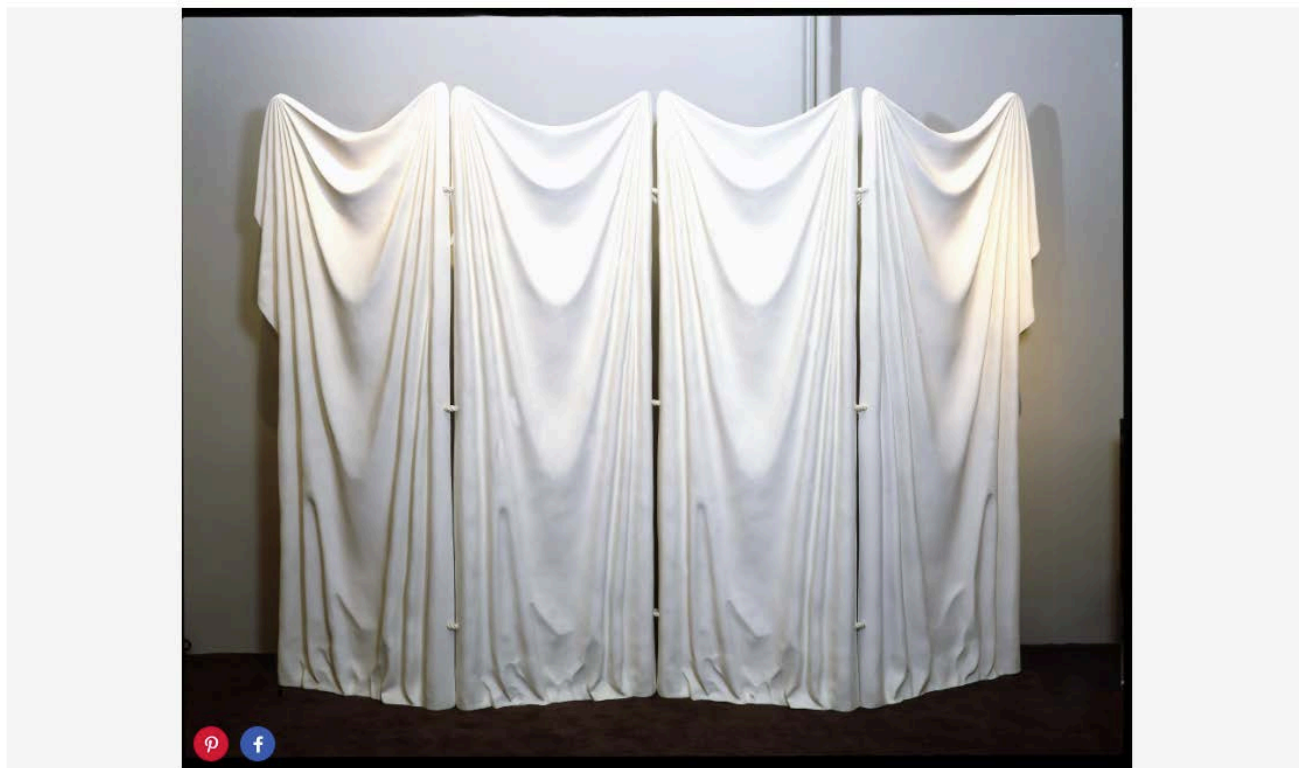


As the story goes, around 400 B.C. a Greek painter named Zeuxis produced a still life so convincing that birds flew down to peck at the painted grapes. Admiring such skill, another artist named Parrhasius asked Zeuxis to judge one of his own paintings, which was stowed behind tattered curtains in his studio. Zeuxis went to pull back the curtains, but he could not—they were part of the painting. Such examples of trompe l'oeil—or [tricks of the eye](#)—have cropped up throughout history, from 18th-century ceilings painted to look like magnificent domes to Rene Magritte's *The Human Condition* to Peter Fischli and David Weiss's convincing polyurethane recreations of the mundane objects in their studio. Since Piero Fornasetti began applying the technique to furnishings in the 1960s—famously creating a dinner plate that appeared to hold a fish, and a folding screen that resembled shelves of books—designers have been employing the style in even more inventive ways. Here, we've collected 14 examples of modern trompe l'oeil that are just as deceiving as their predecessors.

HIDE CAPTION X

Shown: Upholstered in digitally printed fabric, **Maurizio Galante** and **Tal Lancman's** Mies Visit Carrera daybed is much more comfortable than it looks; price upon request. maurizio-galante.com

Photo: Maurizio Galante



Marc Bankowsky's white plaster folding screen seems to be elegantly draped with fabric; \$18,000. maison Gerard.com

Photo: Courtesy of Maison Gerard