

The Illusion of Life

An illusion is something that deceives by producing a false or misleading impression of reality and in *The Illusionist*; the mind is often left to wonder what the “truth” or the “lies” are. The Illusions portrayed dealt with the modernist acts of Eisenheim, the Crowned Prince as the bourgeoisie and the duchess as the socialite looking for clarity. The Illusionist Eisenheim reveals many aspects of modernism, betrayal, and skepticism between himself the Crowned Prince and The Duchess.

One of the first illusions explored was modernism. Eisenheim went against the traditional views of the people in Vienna. He challenged the princes' authority on more than one occasion. The most important opposition was when Eisenheim gave his version of the King Arthur story. He performs a trick that astounds all participants because they are unable to remove a sword standing in mid air with no support. Therefore, when the crowned prince comes over to reclaim the sword, he “the rightful owner” is unable to reclaim his own sword. It was Eisenheim's way of saying he wasn't fit to lead a country. The prince found this deeply disturbing, non-traditional use of technology was used to make a bold statement without saying two words.

Another illusion portrayed was faithfulness that was truly betrayal. It was suppose to be the Duchess and the Prince versus Eisenheim and his magic. The Duchess was to marry the Crowned Prince but once she was reunited with her childhood friend and love, it was impossible to deny the feelings she once had in her youth. The Duchess made her choice very clear, she