

motoscope  
*flicker*  
ki-NET-a-scope  
*flicker*  
zoetrope  
*flicker*  
thaumascop  
*flicker*  
phena-KISS-ta-scope  
*flicker*  
cinemascope  
*flicker*  
viviscope  
*flicker*  
*flickerflickerflicker*  
*flicker fusion*

See?

Let's say a blink averages  
100 milliseconds  
and we blink 23 times a minute  
two minutes 18 seconds per hour  
35 minutes a day our eyes  
are waking shut  
and all we see is the world around us

See?

Let's say there's a white screen  
640 by 480 pixels  
a word in black letters  
flashes left and right  
between two positions along the horizon  
if the rate of flashing is above a threshold  
determined by field of view, brightness  
and color, we'll see the word run  
east to west across the horizon  
some of that time  
the word spends in darkness.

See?

Let's say when we watch a film  
24 frames per second  
double shuttered  
48 frames per second  
the milliseconds accumulate  
like the time between frames in a movie  
we blink constantly.

See?

It's a spring morning,  
the daylight's drawn  
red-tailed hawk angles down  
then arcs up as your eyes rise  
to catch the white underbelly  
electromagnetic waves reflected  
evenly there, save the chestnut rings  
in its tailfeathers, then you catch  
a flash from your own firing photoreceptors  
cooked in the sun's nuclear weight.

Nerves are the projector,  
nerve cells the screen  
films are made in the mind's  
own image -- imagine what we see  
made to look  
what we see like  
apparent emotion appears  
as a hawk in flight  
on an April dawn  
a visionary experience  
that draws our eyes to light  
though they carry the now done  
darkness. A visionary experience  
that lasts as long as we see

even when we don't.