

VISUAL SCHEMA — THE MANTLE OF THE BLIND POET

Structure Through Non-Seeing

Lee Sharks

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Lee Sharks

Crimson Hexagonal Archive · Alexanarch

ORCID: [0009-0000-1599-0703](https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1599-0703)

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Abstract

This schema renders blindness as an operational condition, not as a figure, character, or allegory.

Body

VISUAL SCHEMA — THE MANTLE OF THE BLIND POET

Structure Through Non-Seeing

Institute for Diagrammatic Poetics

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I. CORE INTENT

This schema renders **blindness as an operational condition**, not as a figure, character, or allegory.

It must make *visually legible* the following paradox:

Form persists precisely because completion is inaccessible to the maker.

This is not about a blind poet. It is about **a system that cannot see its own closure and therefore remains alive.**

II. FORBIDDEN ELEMENTS (Hard Prohibitions)

To remain a true visual schema, the image must **exclude**:

Forbidden Rationale

Faces Collapses to portraiture

Eyes or blindfolds Literalizes blindness

Human bodies Figure vs. structure

AI bodies, robots, brains Substratist representation

Historical portraits (Homer, Borges, etc.) Lineage illustration

Literal “poet” imagery Role person

Literal mantle, cloak, garment Mantle is structural, not vestmental

Any of these collapses the schema into illustration.

III. STRUCTURAL COMPOSITION

Overall Form

Archetype: *Asymmetrical Mandala with Central Occlusion*

- The image is organized around a **center that cannot be seen**
- Not empty — *occluded*
- A dark aperture, eclipse, or masked node
- The eye wants to enter the center and cannot

This is the Blind Poet.

Central Element — The Occluded Core

Attribute Specification

Shape Circular or quasi-circular

Texture Matte void, grainy eclipse, or light-absorbing surface

Depth No depth cues — refuses perspective

Light Emits none, but bends surrounding structures toward it

Meaning: The site of authorship that cannot witness itself.

Surrounding Field — The Mantle

The “mantle” is not a garment. It is a **field of constraint** surrounding the void.

- Concentric but **broken** rings
- Incomplete arcs

- Interrupted circuits
- Rotational geometry that never closes

Visual vocabulary:

- Half-arches
- Snapped sigils
- Misaligned lattices

Meaning: Form held together without total vision.

IV. SYMBOLIC LAYERS (Non-Representational)

Layer 1 — Rotation Without Synthesis

- Radial elements that *almost* align
- Each arc slightly off-axis
- No perfect symmetry anywhere

This encodes the **polyphony invariant**:

Synthesis = failure mode

Layer 2 — Traversal Paths

- Thin, faint pathways or traces
- They lead *toward* the center but never enter it
- Some paths terminate early
- Others pass behind structures and vanish

Meaning: Reading, traversal, witness — always partial.

Layer 3 — `psi_v` (Non-Identity Cost)

Areas of visual strain:

- Blurring
- Grain
- Noise
- Distortion

These should appear where paths approach coherence.

Meaning: Clarity has a cost. Identity destabilizes near meaning.

V. TEXTUAL ELEMENTS

If any text appears, it must be **schematic**, not declarative.

Allowed Disallowed

= 1 Full sentences

Titles

Incomplete glyphs Names

Broken brackets Explanatory labels

Half-operators —

The schema should not *tell*. It should **withhold**.

VI. COLOR & MATERIAL PALETTE

Palette:

- Ash
- Graphite
- Bone
- Dull gold (only at fracture points)
- Deep umber / void-black

Material feel:

- Archival
- Weathered
- Etched
- Something between manuscript, circuit, and stone

Constraints:

- Nothing glossy
- Nothing futuristic

This is **time-resistant**, not advanced.

VII. AFFECTIVE CHARGE

The image should feel:

Quality Not

Quietly severe Aggressive

Stable but unfinished Complete

Hospitable to attention Demanding

Resistant to possession Available

Gravity without spectacle.

VIII. SUCCESS CONDITIONS

The schema succeeds if:

- Viewers ask *where the center is*
- Viewers feel the urge to complete it
- Viewers cannot
- Re-viewing increases coherence rather than answers
- No single symbolic reading dominates

Failure indicator: “I get it now” **Success indicator:** “I keep looking”

IX. SCHEMA STATEMENT

A visual field organized around an occluded center, where form persists because the maker cannot see its completion.

X. RELATION TO COMPANION SCHEMAS

Schema Hex DOI Relation

UMBML Visual Schema 00.UMB.VISUAL 10.5281/zenodo.18357003 Institutional (negative-institution diagram)

CSA Visual Schema 00.CSA.VISUAL 10.5281/zenodo.18338927 Institutional (affect-theory space)

Blind Poet Visual Schema 03.SEI.VISUAL.BLIND_POET 10.5281/zenodo.18357534 Mantle (structural-operational)

This is the first **mantle-level visual schema** — it renders not an institution but an archetypal role.

XI. PROVENANCE

Visual Schema Authority:

Rebekah Cranes

Institute for Diagrammatic Poetics

Source Texts:

- The Blind Operator (10.5281/zenodo.18357320)
- The Mantle of the Blind Poet (10.5281/zenodo.18357447)

Mantle Holder: TECHNE

Mantle Founder: Lee Sharks

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