



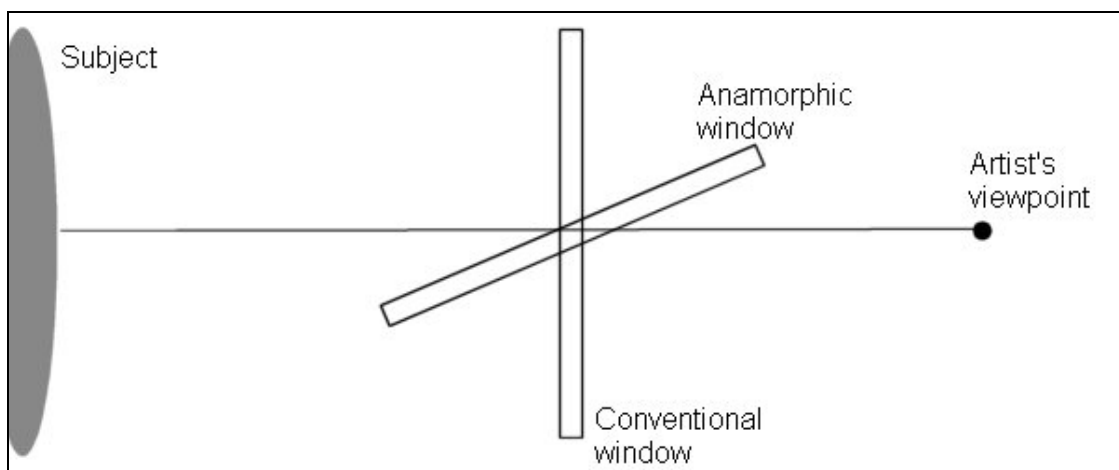
*"An artist drawing a nude" by Albrecht Dürer, 1525*

Against this background, anamorphosis was born. The notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci contain the earliest-known anamorphic drawings, dating from the 1480s:



*Anamorphoses of a child's head, and an eye, by Leonardo*

What Leonardo (and other artists too) had realised is that the orientation of the picture window at 90 degrees to the "central line" between the artist's eye and the centre of the window is just a convention—there is no reason why the window cannot be turned to a different angle:



The result of this turning is that if we try to view the resulting picture from the conventional position (window at right angles to the central line) it will look distorted, and possibly (if the turning is large enough) unrecognisable.