THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

In the 19th century, the development of inexpensive colour printing made anamorphic images more widely available, and it became a popular "parlour game", alongside other "visual games" like stereoscopic photographs.

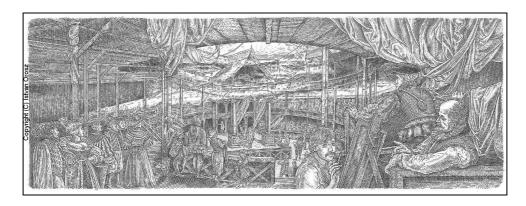
But in the past century, anamorphosis, like many other gentle pastimes of the 19th century, has disappeared from popular knowledge, though usually earning a small mention in books about perspective, and appearing occasionally in special exhibitions or books.

A few artists have worked with the technique, most famously Salvador Dali. He produced several examples where the image is a clever "double":



"Insect and Clown" by Salvador Dali

A contemporary artist in Hungary, István Orosz, has also explored these "double image" designs. Can you work out the theatrical subject of the following picture?



Perhaps popular interest in anamorphosis may revive, especially now that computers allow the kind of artistic experimentation with images that was once the privilege of professional artists.