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This Week in Psychology History

29 Sept – 5 Oct

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Meet these seven influential figures who were born this week, each leaving a mark on how we understand mind and behavior.

From color perception to workplace psychology, their ideas still guide research and often appear in your Psychology Entrance Exams, making this carousel a quick and valuable revision tool.

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Naomi Norsworthy

29 September 1877

Among the first women in U.S. psychology, she researched individual differences in learning and intelligence.

She was Columbia University Teachers College's first full-time female faculty member in psychology, paving the way for women in the field.

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Marvin D. Dunnette

30 September 1926

Pioneer in industrial and organizational psychology, especially personnel selection and job performance prediction.

He led the influential Minnesota Studies in Vocational Behavior, helping shape modern hiring and workplace assessment methods.

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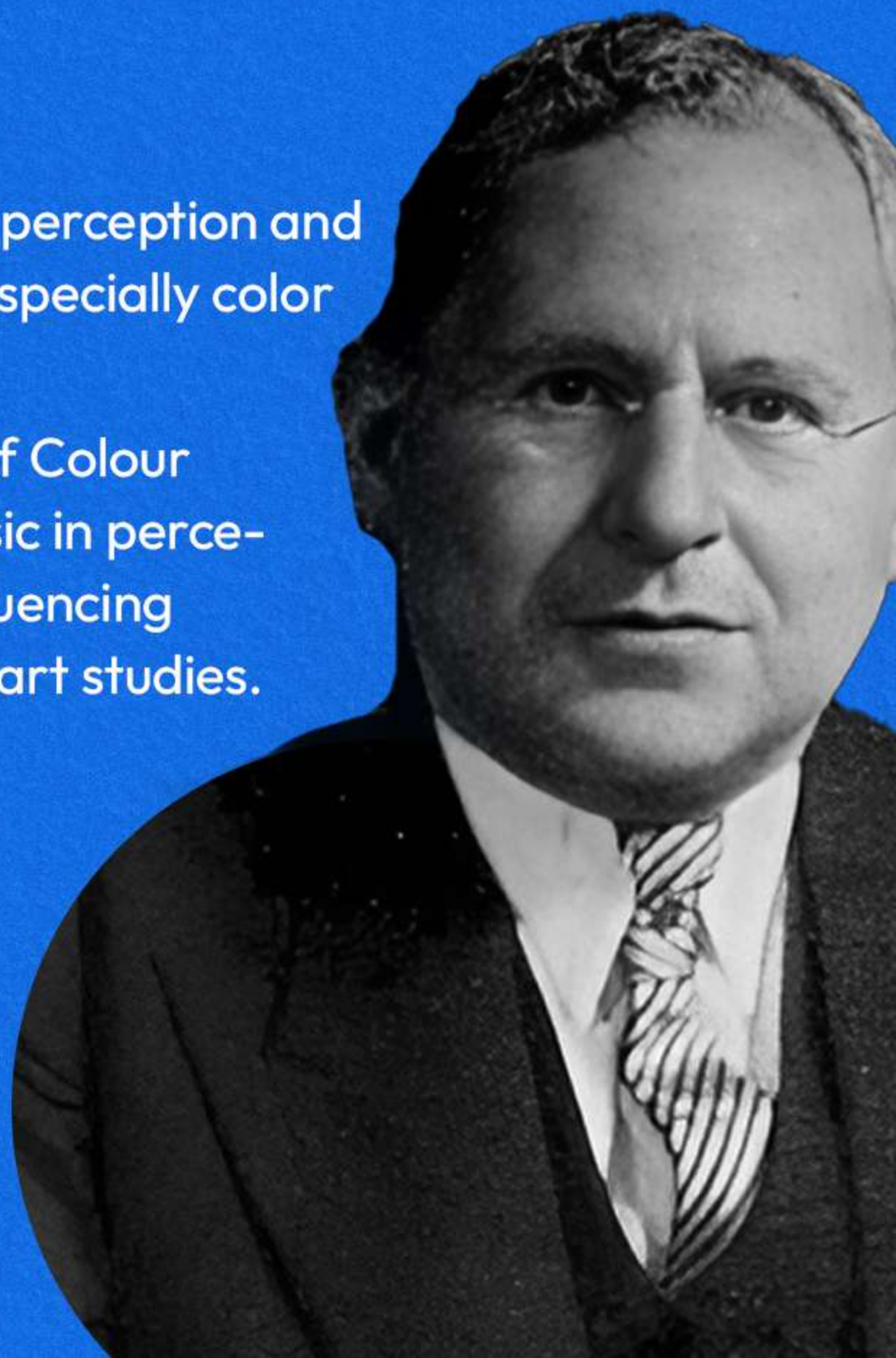
David Katz

1 October 1884

Known for studies on perception and Gestalt psychology, especially color perception.

His book The World of Colour (1935) became a classic in perceptual psychology, influencing both psychology and art studies.



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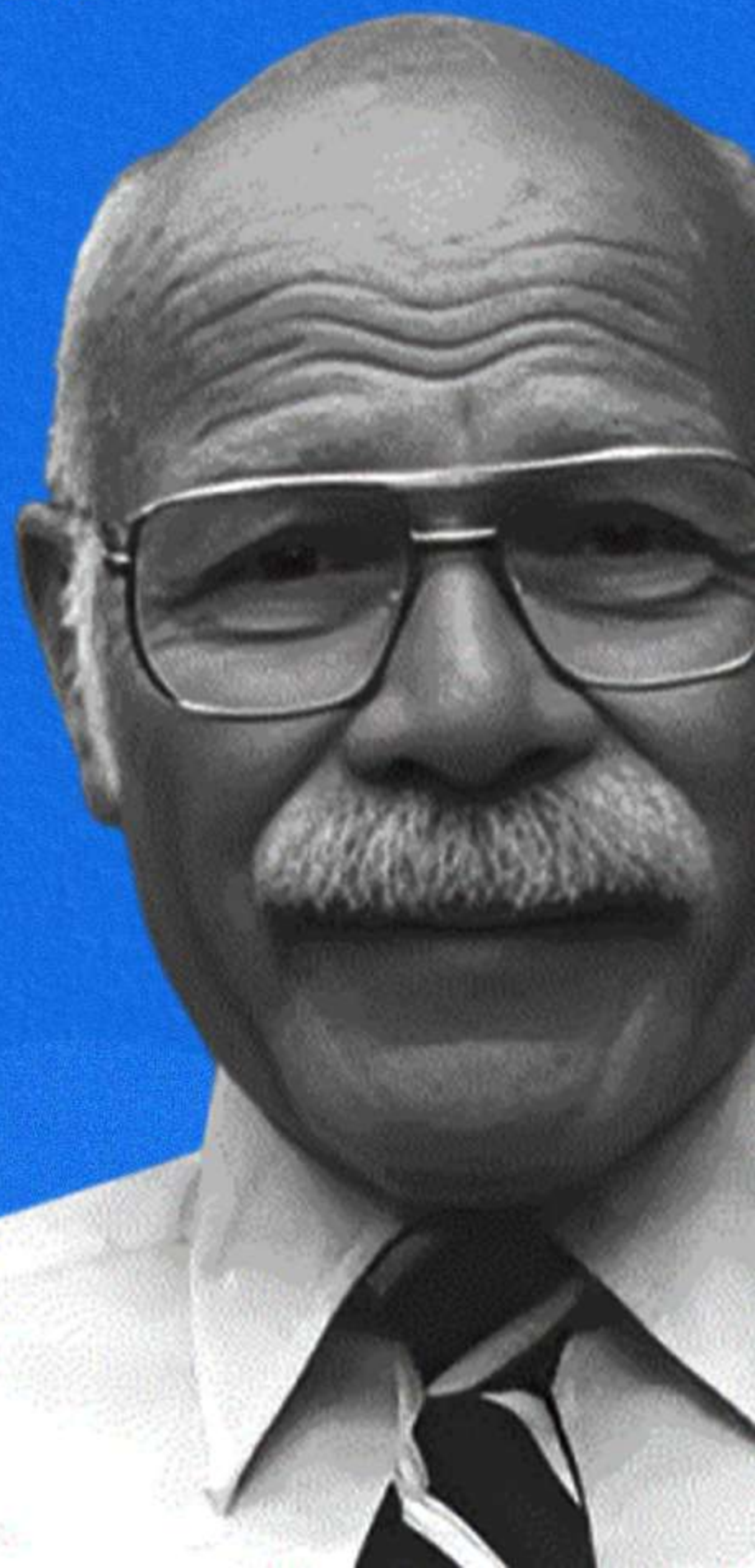
Richard Solomon

2 October 1918

Developed the opponent-process theory of acquired motivation, explaining how emotions and motivations can reverse with repetition.

He also studied avoidance learning in animals, shaping early behavioral theories of fear and anxiety.



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Lenore Edna Walker

3 October 1942

Introduced the concept of the Cycle of Abuse in domestic violence research and developed the idea of Battered Woman Syndrome.

She testified as an expert witness in landmark court cases, bringing psychological science into the legal system.

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George I. Sánchez

4 October 1906

Educational psychologist who exposed cultural bias in IQ testing of Mexican American children.

Known as the “father of Chicano psychology,” he fought segregation in Texas schools and combined scholarship with civil rights activism.

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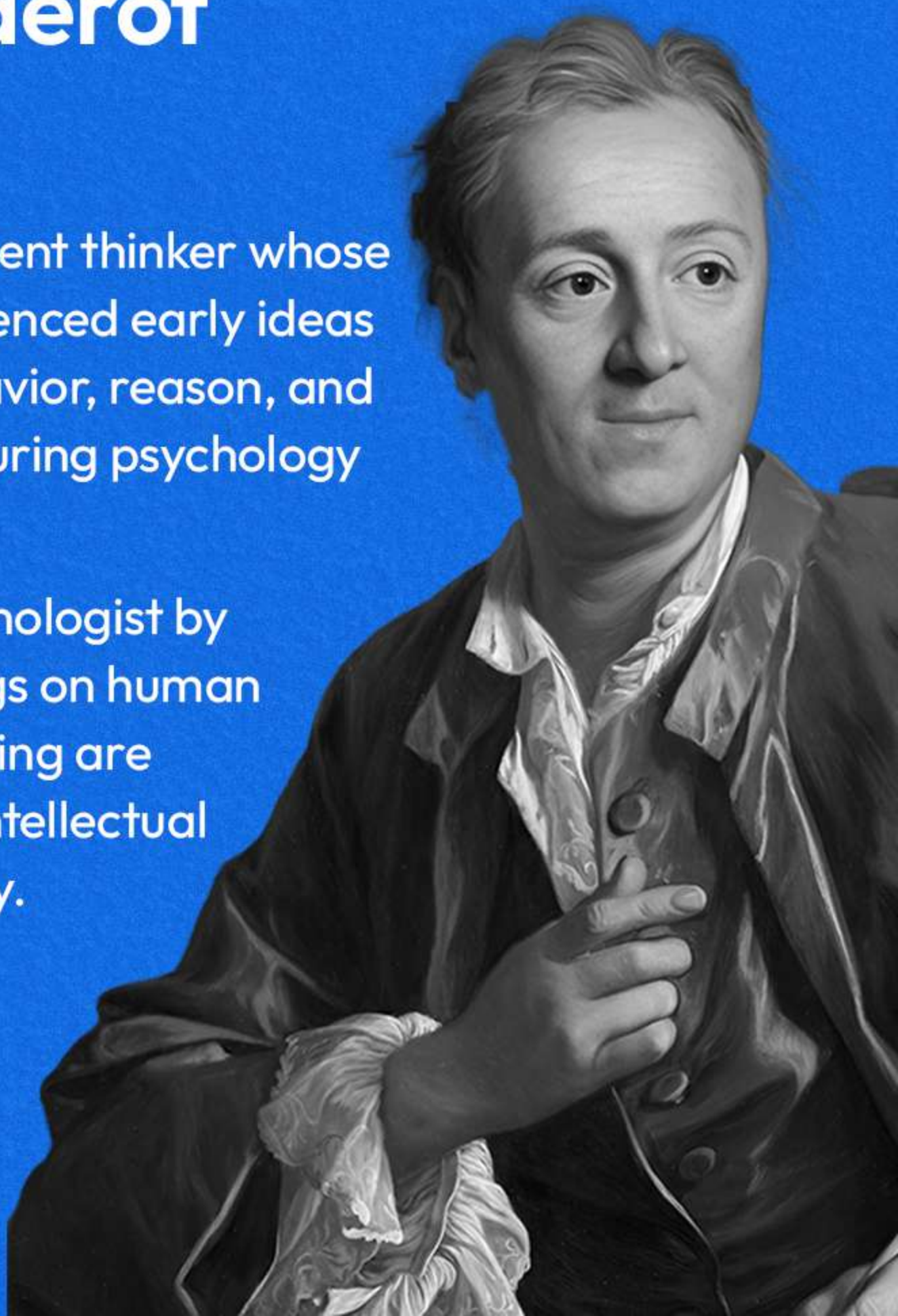
Denis Diderot

5 October 1713

French Enlightenment thinker whose Encyclopédie influenced early ideas about human behavior, reason, and education—prefiguring psychology as a science.

Though not a psychologist by training, his writings on human passions and learning are often cited in the intellectual roots of psychology.



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