

MAGIC TOUCH

# MAKING SENSE

By Jaclyn Jermyn

"Magic is the ultimate 'if a tree falls in a forest' situation," says Chicago-based illusionist **Jeanette Andrews**. "It only works if there's someone there to perceive it in both a psychological and biological way." Andrews' first perception of magic was being dazzled by Siegfried & Roy at the age of 4, but these days she's focused less on the spectacle of top-hat-and-rabbit tricks and more on the mystery of the senses. "The everyday world unfolding around us has so many deeply amazing things happening constantly that we don't notice," she says. "It's my role to facilitate experiences that can draw our attention back, creating moments of wonder that point to mystery in the world." Andrews, who has previously been commissioned for sellout performances at Chicago Ideas Week and the MCA, is big on research, drawing from art history, philosophy and historic events. For her recent show, *Bottling the Impossible*, that meant developing the entire routine around scents (familiar territory for the former artist-in-residence at L.A.'s Institute for Art and Olfaction). As she prepares for an Oct. 24 performance at the Museum of Surgical Science, Andrews has been digging into museum archives and studying up on neurotransmitters. Big ideas, sure—but she hopes those big ideas give way to little magic moments beyond the performance space. "If anyone is able to look at any little thing in their life and take away that it might be beautiful," she says, "I feel like my job is done." [jeanetteandrews.com](http://jeanetteandrews.com)

Illusionist Jeanette Andrews has a show at the Museum of Surgical Science this fall.



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