What color are the spheres?

Where is the mouse?
What color are the spheres?

This kind of op-art is known as the Munker-White Illusion. We perceive colors as they are on their own, and also by contrast with colors around them. This can be manipulated using stripes of different colors, for example. In the top row, note the colors of the stripes going across the balls. The left one has green stripes, the middle one red, and the right one blue. That changes how we see the balls.

We are deceived by this illusion because our brains not only process colors individually but also within the context of nearby colors.

Images by David Novick

Where is the mouse?

Images by Gergely Dudás