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**Abstract:** In this paper, I discuss the role of diagrammatic thinking within the larger context of cognitive activity as framed by Peirce's semiotic theory of and its underpinning realistic ontology. After a short overview of Kant's scepticism in its historical context, I examine Peirce's attempt to rescue perception as a way to reconceptualize the Kantian "manifold of senses". I argue that Peirce's redemption of perception led him to a series of problems that are as fundamental as those that Kant encountered. I contend that the understanding of the difficulties of Peirce's epistemology allows us to better grasp the limits and possibilities of diagrammatic thinking.  
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