Contents

Preface to the English Edition xiii

Introduction 1

13

•	Between Thing and Sign: The Hubris of the Image					
	1. The Atopic Character of Images 13					
	2. Mimesis and Methexis: Descending and Ascending Ontological Dependence 19					
	3. Between Oneness and Twoness 20					
	4. <i>Motus Duplex</i> : The Two Paradigmatic Ways of Looking at Images 25					
	5. Referring to Something Absent 27					
	6. An Anthropological Interest in Images as Images 30					
	7. What It Is and How It Appears 31					
	8. <i>The Sophist</i> : The Image in Perspective 34					
	9. Protagoras's Provocation of Philosophy 42					
	10. Saving the Appearances 45					

VIII CONTENTS

2. Aristotle's Foundation of a Media Theory of Appearing 53					
1. Appearance and Judgment: Aristotle's Protophenomenology 53					
2. Specular Beings: Images as Mirrors of the World 59					
3. Antipodes of Seeing 64					
(a) Atomistic Decals 66					
(b) Empedocles's Lantern 67					
4. A Way out of the Aporia: Seeing as Alteration 69					
5. What Lies in Between: Aristotle and Democritus on the Void 71					
6. A Media Theory of Appearances 76					
(a) This Nameless Something: The Invention of the Diaphanous 76					
(b) Point Continuum and Space Continuum 80					
(c) Meson Kritikon 82					
7. Aisthesis: From Potential to Actual Perception and Back 85					
8. Seeing in the Dark: The Power of Not Actualizing a Power 93					
9. Phantasia: The Force of Visualization 98					
10. Does Aristotle Have an Image Theory at All? 101					
3. Forgetting Media: Traces of the Diaphanous from					
Themistius to Berkeley 105					
1. The Sense of Touch, or The Limits of Media Theory 106					
(a) In Itself—Through Another 108					
(b) The Mediality of the Sense of Touch III					
(c) Forgetting Media as Anesthesia 114					
2. Transparency and Opacity, or The Progressive Polarization of the Diaphanous 117					
3. Climbing the Ladder: The Transparency Scenario 118					
(a) Themistius: The Elevation of the Diaphanous 118					
(b) Plotinus: Medium vs. Sympatheia 119					

CONTENTS

(c) Dum Medium Silentium: Reinterpreting Presence 120							
(d) A Speculative Metaphysics of Light 122							
(e) Aquinas: The Closure of the Diaphanous 123							
4. When Blind Men See: The Opacity Scenario 127							
(a) Stoa: Condensations of <i>Pneuma</i> 127							
(b) The Stick Metaphor in the Commentaries on Aristotle 127							
(c) Galen and Ocular Anatomy 128							
(d) Alhazen: The Segmentation of the Visible 129							
(e) Descartes: Seeing with Sticks 130							
(f) Extensions of the Soul 131							
5. The Computability of the Image: Brunelleschi's Experiment 132							
6. Unveilings (Alberti) 136							
7. The Pictorialization of Vision (Kepler) 139							
8. The Literacy of the Eye (Descartes) 142							
9. The Diaphanous as Partition (Berkeley) 144							
10. What Is a Transparency Theory, What an Opacity Theory of the Image? 147							
(a) Transparency Theory of the Image 149							
(b) Opacity Theory of the Image 151							
(c) The Transparency-Opacity Paradigm 155							
4. A Phenomenology of Images 159							
1. Phenomenal Things (Husserl) 159							
(a) Expansion of the Intuition Zone 160							
(b) To the Things Themselves 161							
(c) Act 163							
(d) Adumbration 165							
(e) Aesthetic Consciousness 167							
2. From Aristotle to Phenomenology: Franz Brentano's Reconceptualization of Intentionality 168							

 ${\bf x}$ CONTENTS

3. From Binary to Triad: The Encounter with Images 173						
4. Images as Pure Absences (Sartre) 177						
5. Presentation as Self-Reduplication (Husserl) 180						
6. Thresholds: On the Margins of Images 186						
(a) Carriers 186						
(b) Frames 188						
(c) Windows 190						
7. From Pictorial Medium to Genetic Phenomenology 191						
8. The Relucence of the Medium (Fink) 192						
9. Mediality as Deferral of Presence (Derrida) 198						
10. The Ontological Milieu of Visibility (Merleau-Ponty) 201						
5. Media Phenomenology 209						
1. Theory of Blind Spots, Blind Spots of Theory 209						
2. From Lateral to Medial Phenomenology 212						
3. Appearing Is Appearing-Through: Eidetic, Transcendental, and Medial Aspects 221						
4. Elementary Visuality 224						
5. Transparency and Interference 228						
6. The Exemplarity of the Image: Against Pure Visibility 233						
7. Minima Visibilia: Symptomatology, or The Outline of a New Approach in Image Theory 238						
(a) Ellipsis 242						
(b) Synopticity 245						
(c) Framing 248						
(d) Presentativity 251						
(e) Figurality 253						
(f) Deixis 255						
(g) Ostensivity (Exemplification, Ostension, Bareness) 259						

CONTENTS xI

(h) Variation Sensitivity 265					
(i) A Chiasm of Gazes 268					
(j) Seeing-with (Seeing-as, Seeing-in, Seeing-with) 270					
8. Anachronism (Time-Image 1) 275					
9. Image Potential, Image Act (Time-Image 2) 277					
10. When the Medium Shines Through 283					
Conclusion: Seeing Through Images—					
for an Alternative Theory of Media 293					

•••••

Afterword: Seeing Not Riddling 297

ANDREW BENJAMIN

Notes 303 Bibliography 355 Index 377