

Contents

Introduction: Describing a Culture: <i>Blickwechsel</i> (Shifting Focus / Exchanging Glances)	I
--	---

1. Perspective as a Question of Images:

Paths between East and West

What Is a Symbolic Form?	13
Arab Mathematics and Western Art	26
Geometry and Decorative Art: The Arabesque	35
The Globalization of Perspective	42
<i>Blickwechsel</i> : Orhan Pamuk and Perspective as a “Betrayal”	48

2. The Taming of the Eye:

Criticism of Seeing in Islam

Religion and the Prohibition of Images	55
Images as a Betrayal of the Living Creation	62
The Koran as Scripture and Script	67
Under the Gaze of Allah: Pictures as Narrative	78
<i>Blickwechsel</i> : Pictures with a Living Gaze	84

3. Alhazen’s Measurement of Light

and the Arab Invention of the Camera Obscura

Alhazen’s Book of Optics, the <i>Perspectiva</i>	90
Distance from Ancient Visual Culture	99
Pathways of Light and Properties of Objects	102
Mathematics and Geometry in Islamic Art	111
<i>Blickwechsel</i> : Kepler RedisCOVERS the Camera Obscura	124

4. Perception as Knowledge: A Theory of Vision Becomes a Theory of Pictures

Scholasticism and the Conflict over Perception and Epistemology	129
Before Perspective: The Gaze in Giotto's Painting	135
Pelacani's Invention of Mathematical Space	146
Ghiberti's <i>Commentaries</i> and Piero's Mathematical Art	150
<i>Blickwechsel</i> : Alhazen or Euclid? The Option for Vitruvius	159

5. Brunelleschi Measures the Gaze: Mathematical Perspective and Theater

Two Inventors in Florence	164
Physical Space: The Architecture of the Gaze	173
"Prospects" on the Stage	185
Panoramas in Urbino	198
<i>Blickwechsel</i> : The Geometry of the <i>Muqarnas</i>	204

6. The Subject in the Picture: Perspective as a Symbolic Form

Stealing an Emblem: The Eye as Representative of the Gaze	211
Nicholas of Cusa and the Sovereignty of God's Gaze	221
The Subject as New Narcissus	227
The Horizon and the View through a Window	231
<i>Blickwechsel</i> : The <i>Mashrabiyya</i> as a Symbolic Form	251

Conclusion: Comparing the Gaze in Different Cultures

Afterword	261
Notes	271
Index	291