Contents

Illustrations ix

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction: The Politics of Persuasion 1

Chapter One Art History's Hegelian Unconscious: Naturalism as Nationalism in the Study of Early Netherlandish Painting 8

Chapter Two History, Fiction, Memory: Riemenschneider and the Dangers of Persuasion 42

Chapter Three Motivating History 65

Chapter Four Perspective, Panofsky, and the Philosophy of History 90

Chapter Five Nostalgia for the Real: The Troubled Relation of Art
History to Visual Studies 103

Chapter Six After the Death of the "Death of the Author" 124

Index 143