

Contents

- Preface XI
List of Illustrations XIII
List of Abbreviations XXI
- 1 Art and Humanism in the Renaissance 1
- 1 Ficino and the Visual Arts 3
 - 2 Historical Context 14
 - 3 Conclusion 27
- PART 1**
- Oculus Imaginationis*
- 2 'Such stuff as dreams are made on': A Brief History of the Imagination 31
- 1 Classical Theories 33
 - 2 Aristotle, Aristotelianism and the Stoics 36
 - 3 Galen of Pergamon and Galenism 39
 - 4 Plato and the Platonist Tradition 45
 - 5 Hermetism 52
 - 6 Medieval Theories: Arab Thinkers 60
 - 7 Medieval Theories: The Latin West 62
 - 8 Conclusion 69
- 3 *Phantasia* through Ficino's Lense: Focus, Refraction and Diffusion 73
- 1 *De Divino furore* and Related Texts 78
 - 2 *De amore* 83
 - 3 *Theologia Platonica*, Book XIII 87
 - 4 Melancholy and *furor*: *De vita sana* (1480) 95
 - 5 Ficino's *Commentary on Priscian of Lydia* 98
 - 6 *De vita II* and *III* (1489) 102
 - 7 Commentary on Plato's Dialogue *Parmenides* (1492–1494) 117
 - 8 Imitation, Opposition and Reception 119
 - 9 Conclusion 127

PART 2

Visus

- 4 **Botticelli's *Primavera* Interpreted** 131
- 1 Ficino and Art from the Renaissance Onward 131
 - 2 Botticelli's *Primavera* and *The Birth of Venus* 133
 - 3 Interpretations of the *Primavera* 136
 - 4 Warburg 136
 - 5 Gombrich 138
 - 6 Wind 141
 - 7 Dempsey 145
 - 8 Snow-Smith 156
 - 9 Ames-Lewis 164
 - 10 The Six Powers of the Soul 174
 - 11 Excursus: Ficino and Images 184
 - 12 Conclusion 198
- 5 **Ficino's Fantasy and Michelangelo's *Dream*** 203
- 1 Melancholic Genius and Its Vices 203
 - 2 Michelangelo, the Melancholic 207
 - 3 Michelangelo and Tommaso dei Cavalieri 212
 - 4 Michelangelo's Platonism 215
 - 5 *Il sogno* or *The Dream* 221
 - 6 *Ganymede, Tityus* and *Phaeton* 239
 - 7 *A Children's Bacchanal* 248
 - 8 *Archers* 254
 - 9 Conclusion 266
- 6 **Alberti, Bartoli, Comanini: Imagination in Early-Modern Art Theory** 269
- 1 Art Theory and Its Emancipation of Painting 269
 - 2 Routes for the Transfer of Ficino's Ideas 270
 - 3 References to Ficino's Portraits in Art Theory 277
 - 4 References to Ficino's Ideas in Art Theory 281
 - 5 'Thus wrote Trismegistus to Asclepius': References to Hermes Trismegistus 287
 - 6 Plato's Chariot: The Artistic Risks and Promises of the Imagination 294
 - 7 *Fantasia*, the Bizarre and Grotesque 307
 - 8 *Furor* as Part of the Artistic Process 309

- 9 Melancholy as a Psychosomatic Side-Effect of the Artistic Process 313
- 10 Conclusion 319
- 7 **Ficino and the Imagination: Conclusion and Summary** 324
- Bibliography** 333
- Index** 364