Contents

Introduction: Describing a Culture: Blickwechsel	
(Shifting Focus / Exchanging Glances)	. І
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
Blickwechsel: 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
Blickwechsel: 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
Rlickwechsel: Kepler Rediscovers the Camera Obscura	12.4



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 Commentaries and Piero's Mathematical Art	150
Blickwechsel: 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
Blickwechsel: The Geometry of the Muqarnas	204
6. The Subject in the Picture:	
Perspective as a Symbolic Form	
Stealing an Emblem: The Eye as Representative of the Gaze	2.11
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	238
Blickwechsel: The Mashrabiyya as a Symbolic Form	252
Conclusion:	
Comparing the Gaze in Different Cultures	
Afterword	267
Notes	273
Index	295