

# Table of Contents

Alexandra Grieser and Jay Johnston

**What is an *Aesthetics of Religion*? From the Senses to Meaning—and Back Again — 1**

**List of Figures — 51**

## **PART I Fields and Topics**

Mikael Aktor

**Grasping the Formless in Stones: The Petromorphic Gods of the Hindu *Pañcāyatanapūjā* — 59**

John T. Hamilton and Almut-Barbara Renger

**Religion, Literature, and the Aesthetics of Expressionism — 75**

Adrian Hermann

**Screening the *Father of Lights*: Documentary Film and the Aesthetics of the Nonfictional in Contemporary Religion — 103**

Laura Feldt

**The Literary Aesthetics of Religious Narratives: Probing Literary-Aesthetic Form, Emotion, and Sensory Effects in Exodus 7–11 — 121**

## **PART II History and Politics**

Niklaus Largier

**Below the Horizon of Meaning: Figuration, Disfiguration, Transfiguration — 147**

Ulrike Brunotte

**The Performative Knowledge of Ecstasy: Jane E. Harrison's (1850–1928) Early Contestations of the Textual Paradigm in Religious Studies — 161**

Christoph Auffarth

**What Does a Reformed City Look Like? – Changes in Visible Religion During the Reformation in Bremen — 189**

Hubert Mohr

**Standing, Not Walking – The Hieratic as a Key Term of an Anthropologically Based Aesthetics of Religion — 211**

### **PART III Comparison and Transfer**

Alexandra Grieser

**Blue Brains: *Aesthetic Ideologies* and the Formation of Knowledge Between Religion and Science — 237**

Jens Kreinath

**Aesthetic Dimensions and Transformative Dynamics of Mimetic Acts: The Veneration of Habib-i Neccar Among Muslims and Christians in Antakya, Turkey — 271**

Maruška Svašek

**Aestheticisation and the Production of (Religious) Space in Chennai — 301**

Annette Wilke

**Moving Religion by Sound: On the Effectiveness of the Nāda-Brahman in India and Modern Europe — 323**

### **PART IV Concepts and Theories**

Jay Johnston

**Esoteric Aesthetics: The Spiritual Matter of Intersubjective Encounter — 349**

Sebastian Schüler

**Aesthetics of Immersion: Collective Effervescence, Bodily Synchronisation and the Sensory Navigation of the Sacred — 367**

Anne Koch

**The Governance of Aesthetic Subjects Through Body Knowledge and Affect Economies. A Cognitive-Aesthetic Approach — 389**

Manuel A. Vásquez

**Religion in the Flesh: Non-Reductive Materialism and the Ecological  
Aesthetics of Religion — 413**

**PART V In Conversation: Essays About the Connectivity of  
an Aesthetics of Religion**

Fred Cummins

**Subjects and Sense-Making — 437**

François Gauthier

**Consumer Culture and the Sensory Remodelling of Religion — 447**

Frank Heidemann

**Social Aesthetics, Atmosphere and Proprioception — 457**

Robert Yelle

**Semiotics and Aesthetics: Historical and Structural Connections — 465**

S. Brent Plate

**The Artificiality of Aesthetics: Making Connections on the Erie Canal — 473**

**Authors Biographies — 483**

**Index — 491**