

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments 6
Introduction 8

CHAPTER ONE The Picture as Species 12

Netherworld/*Sottobosco* 13
“Picturaas Akker” 14
Pictures That Shoot Up out of the Ground
like Mushrooms 17
Scala Naturae 22
Spontaneous Generation 28
Temporariae: Exhausting Themselves in Existence 32
Panspermia: Life According to Plan 33
Atomism: Life as Accident 35
Ground and Picture Ground 37
“Campeggiare” and “Schilderen” 38
The Species Expresses the Genus 40
The Color Brown 45
Mother Earth 48
Monstrous Art 49
The Son As Species 50
Growth and Decay 52
Descensus–Ascensus 60
Man as Ephemeron 62
The Nature Tableau Breaks Apart 68
The Painting as Biotopos 75
Creating out of the Depths 80
Knowledge Networks 83

MIMESIS I The Picture as “Species”—
The Painter as Gardener 86

CHAPTER TWO The Picture as Pharmakon 88

Painted Poison 90
Medusa’s Blood 94
Theriac 97
Fiction and Reality 101
Myth Work 102
Of Things and Facts 104
Snakestone 104
Tarantella 106
Pharmakeia 111
Plants 112
Stones 118

MIMESIS II The Drug of Representation—
The Painter as Apothecary 123

CHAPTER THREE The Picture as Palingenesis 126

Alchemy 127
Sulphur – Sal – Mercurius 129
Eye-Opening 133
Euphrasia 134
Gold and Silver 139
Cinnabar 141
Snow-White and Rose-Red 145
The Fall into Matter 150
Palingenesis 154

MIMESIS III Death and Transfiguration—The Painter as
Alchemist: Fall and “Palingenesis” of Lady Venetia
Digby 157

CHAPTER FOUR The Picture as Ephemeron 164

Natural Color and Artificial Color 165
Verf and *Kleur* 166
Color as Coloration (*De Coloribus*) 170
Colors and Elements 171
Purple and Leek-Green 173
Layer by Layer 178
Colores Proprii—Colores Apparentes 180
Rainbow and Floral Bouquet 182
Austerus—Floridus 185
Apparent Color 187
Prism and Palette 190
Turbid Media 194
Van Hoogstraten Reads Digby 196
Alchemy and Optics 198
Hylemorphism and Atomism 201
“Akker” and Field 202

MIMESIS IV The Picture as “Ephemeron”—
Color as Accident 208

Afterword and Outlook 211

Notes 214
Bibliography 279
List of Illustrations 298
Index 302