

Fantasm and Fiction: On Textual Envisioning (Paperback)



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Reviews

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FANTASM AND FICTION: ON TEXTUAL ENVISIONING (PAPERBACK)

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Stanford University Press, United States, 1999. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Mental image, dream, fantasy, hallucination-all these are comprised in the psychoanalytic concept of the fantasm. Perhaps only such a multifarious concept is adequate to the range of visual elements involved in the experience of reading fiction, or of writing it. Soon after the birth of the novel, doctors expressed concern that readers might be possessed by what they were reading, haunted by textual fantasms. Contemporary writers like John Gardner, Maurice Blanchot, and John Banville figure this possession as a kind of textual dreaming: fiction, like dream, draws from a fantasmal unconscious. For the reader's images to become conscious, however, they must be cued by a material text through framing strategies and evocative gaps. This book analyzes the complex relationship between the fantasmal experience and the material text, reading a wide range of works-such as Calvino's *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*, Coleridge's *Kubla Khan*, Sorrentino's *Mulligan Stew*, and Rimbaud's *The Vowels*-that treat explicitly what is implicit in reading. Although the specific images of individual readers cannot be predicted, one can speculate on the modes of these images: are they focused or fogged, schematic or emotive, fleeting or enduring? These are questions not only for theorists but for artists who make textual visualization visible. Drawing on artists' books, marginal drawings by authors, and films such as *Prospero's Books*, *Fantasm and Fiction* illuminates the process of textual visualization. The author develops, in addition, *A Politics of Visualization* through analyses of the photographs of David Wojnarowicz, Derek Jarman's film *Blue*, and Nicole Brossard's novel *Picture Theory*. In this richly suggestive study, the fantasm emerges as a crucial aspect not only of reading...

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