

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456171403321
Autore	Dickenson Victoria
Titolo	Drawn from life : science and art in the portrayal of the New World // Victoria Dickenson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1998 ©1998
ISBN	1-282-02581-3 1-4426-7410-5 9786612025815
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (341 p.)
Disciplina	508/.022/2
Soggetti	Natural history illustration - Europe - History Natural history illustration - North America - History Art and science - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Plates -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: The Bittern from Hudson s-Bay -- Chapter 1: Emblematic Animals -- Chapter 2: Naturalism and the Counterfeit of Nature -- Chapter 3: The Living Image -- Chapter 4: The Redefinition of Landscape -- Chapter 5: The Classification of the Visible: Part One -- Chapter 6: The Classification of the Visible: Part Two -- Chapter 7: A Country Observed -- Conclusion: Drawing and Nature -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Credits -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The use of images as evidence in historical writing has been largely neglected by historians, though recent interest in the importance of visualization in scientific literature has led to a reappraisal of their value. In Drawn from Life, Victoria Dickenson uncovers a vast pictorial tradition of 'scientific illustration' that reveals how artists and writers, from the late sixteenth to the early nineteenth century portrayed the natural history and landscape of North America to European readers. Dickenson undertakes a close reading of the images created by

European artists, most of whom had never seen North America, and unravels the threads that linked the images to the curiosities and specimens that reached the Old World. Drawing on a wide range of illustrations - woodblock prints, engravings, watercolours, and maps - she examines several important issues regarding the nature of imagery: the tension between naturalistic representation and stylistic conventionalism; the role of the medium used in creating the image (especially the rise of printmaking); the historically changing function of images; and the need to consider historical context in 'reading' such pictures. While many contemporary artists claimed that their work was 'drawn from life,' their images were, in fact, also works of the imagination. Drawn from Life is an illustrated archaeology of the imagination that allows readers to see North America as Cartier, Champlain, and early naturalists perceived.
