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Nota di contenuto	Vapours and veils : the edge of the unseen / Christine Gottler -- Poltergeist the prequel : aspects of other worldly disturbances in early modern times / Wolfgang Neuber -- Fire, smoke and vapour, Jan Brueghel's "poetic hell" : ghespooch in early modern European art / Christine Gottler -- Moveable feasts of reason : description, intelligence, and the excitation of sight / Bret Rothstein -- Images in the air : optical games, magic, and imagination / Sven Dupre -- Material gazes and flying images in Marsilio Ficino and Michelangelo / Berthold Hub -- Spirits of love: Castiglione and Neo-Platonic discourses of vision / Wietse de Boer -- Painting's enchanting poison : artistic efficacy and the transfer of spirits / Thijs Weststeijn -- "Singe the enchantment for sleepe" : music and bewitched sleep in early modern English drama / Sarah F. Williams -- Bilder des Unsichtbaren : Robert Fludd's Konzeption des Weltgeistes / Wilhelm Schmidt-Biggemann -- Sympathy in Eden : on paradise with the fall of man by Rubens and Brueghel / Paul J. Smith -- Dizzying visions : St. Teresa of Jesus and the embodied visual image / Rose Marie San Juan -- Spirit as intermediary in post-Cartesian natural philosophy / Justin E.H. Smith --

The motions of laughter : allegory and physiology in Walter Charleton's Natural history of the passions (1674) / Dawn Morgan -- Ghosts in the machine : the apparition of Mrs. Veal, Rowe's friendship in death, and the early eighteenth-century invisible world / Jennifer Frangos -- Die Geburt des Kunstwerks durch den Geist der Proportion : Franz Xavier Messerschmidt und seine Charakterkopfe / Axel Christoph Gampp.

Sommario/riassunto

Spirits – airy, volatile 'subtle bodies' – occupied a central place in early modern European culture. At the edge of the visible and perceptible, spiritus could signify a broad variety of subtle substances, both natural and divine: the vapours moving inside the body, the elements of air and fire, angels, demons and spectres, the Holy Spirit and the human soul. Spirits functioned as intermediaries between two opposite worlds with continually shifting borders. This book investigates specific meanings and uses of spiritus in a variety of early modern disciplines and fields – physiology, psychology, alchemy, theology, demonology, art theory, music theory, novels and the literature on love – thus revisiting the ambivalent history of a central ancient concept in a period of crisis and change. Contributors include: Wietse de Boer, Sven Dupré, Jennifer Frangos, Axel Christoph Gampp, Christine Göttler, Berthold Hub, Dawn Morgan, Wolfgang Neuber, Bret Rothstein, Rose Marie San Juan, Wilhelm Schmidt-Biggemann, Justin E. H. Smith, Paul J. Smith, Thijs Weststeijn, and Sarah F. Williams.
