

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787178803321
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Titolo	Citizen spectator : art, illusion, and visual perception in early national America // Wendy Bellion
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Chapel Hill, North Carolina] : , : The University of North Carolina Press, , 2012 ©2012
ISBN	0-8078-3890-X 1-4696-0043-9
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (384 p.)
Collana	Published for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia
Disciplina	701/.03097309033
Soggetti	Art and society - United States - History - 18th century Art and society - United States - History - 19th century Optical illusions in art Visual perception - Social aspects - United States - History - 18th century Visual perception - Social aspects - United States - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Theaters of visibility -- The politics of discernment -- Sight and the city -- Imitations and originals -- Looking for the invisible lady -- Phantasmagoric Washington.
Sommario/riassunto	Bellion presents an exploration of illusionistic art in the early US. She investigates Americans' experiences with material forms of visual deception, arguing that encounters with illusory art shaped their understanding of knowledge, representation, & subjectivity between 1790 and 1825. Focusing on the work of the Peale family and the Philadelphia Museum, as well as other Philadelphians, the book explores the range of illusions encountered in public spaces, from trompe l'oeil paintings & drawings to ephemeral displays of phantasmagoria, 'Invisible Ladies', and other spectacles of deception.