

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790738603321
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Titolo	Empty vision : metaphor and visionary imagery in Mahayana Buddhism // David L. McMahan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2013
ISBN	1-138-86260-6 1-315-02897-2 1-136-85726-5 1-136-85719-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (238 p.)
Collana	The Curzon critical studies in Buddhism series
Disciplina	294.392
Soggetti	Mahayana Buddhism Metaphor - Religious aspects - Buddhism Vision - Religious aspects - Buddhism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First published in 2002 by RoutledgeCurzon.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Acknowledgements; Technical Note on Terms; Introduction; 1 The Devaluation of Language and the Privileging of Perception; Language and Concepts in Early Buddhism; Abhidharma and Dharma Theory; Mahayana Views on Language and Concepts; Dialectical Patterns in the Perfection of Wisdom Literature; Dialectic, Paradox, and Discourse; The Paradoxical Dialectic and Buddhist History; Discursive Thinking and the Construction of the Lifeworld; Perception in Indian Buddhism and Indian Philosophy 2 Buddhist Visuality in History and MetaphorVision in Indo-European Language and History; Metaphors and Their Functions; Visual Metaphor in Buddhist Discourse; Related Metaphors for Knowledge and Awakening; The Meaning and Significance of Space in Buddhist Discourse; Conclusion; 3 Orality, Writing, and Authority: Visionary Literature and the Struggle for Legitimacy in the Mahayana; Orality In Early Buddhism; Writing in the Early Mahayana; Writing and the Survival of the Mahayana; Sacred Text and Sacred Site; Writing and the Visual The Buddhavacana and Strategies of Legitimation in the

Mahayana Visionary Literature and Grounds for Legitimacy; Conclusion; 4 Realms of the Senses: Buddha Fields and Fields of Vision in the *Gandavyuha Sutra*; Historical Context of the *Gandavyuha*; Visionary Literature and Thaumaturgy in India; Buddha-Fields and Images of Kingship; Elements of the Narrative; Vision and Doctrine; Dialectics of Words and Dialectics of Vision; Concretization of Metaphor; 5 The Optics of Buddhist Meditation and Devotion; Vision and Visualization in Early and Non-Mahayana Meditation; Meditation and Mental Imagery Vision and DevotionDharma, Buddha, Stupa, and Saint; Recollection of the Buddha and Visualization Sutras; Image Worship and Darsan; Asanga on the Buddha's Bodies; Tantric Visualization Practices; Stages of Tantric Sadhana; Mandala and Sutra Imagery; Embodiment and Resemblance; The Somaticization of Doctrine; 6 Conclusions and Occlusions; Ocularcentrism in European and American Philosophy; Ocularcentrism in Buddhist Traditions; Notes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Visual metaphors in a number of Mahayana sutras construct a discourse in which visual perception serves as a model for knowledge and enlightenment. In the *Perfection of Wisdom* (*Prajnaparamita*) and other Mahayana literature, immediate access to reality is symbolized by vision and set in opposition to language and conceptual thinking, which are construed as obscuring reality. In addition to its philosophical manifestations, the tension between vision and language also functioned as a strategy of legitimization in the struggle of the early heterodox Mahayana movement for authority and legitimacy. T
