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Contours of meaning in the scripts of ancient MesoAmerica: Western epistemology and the phonetic issue / Gordon Brotherston -- Arts in letters: The aesthetics of ancient Greek writing / Alexandra Pappas --Letter and spirit: The power of the letter, the enlivenment of the word in medieval art / Cynthia Hahn -- Visible and invisible letters: Text versus image in Renaissance England and Europe / Peter Stallybrass --Illegibility and grammophobia in "Paul et Virginie" / Lorraine Piroux --Written on the page / Jacques Neefs -- Buzz Spector, Kafka -- Face to face -- As if -- Sur-face text-ure -- Un coup de des & La Prose du Transsiberien: A study in contraries / Mary Shaw -- Mathematics for "Just Plain Folks": Allegories of quantitative and qualitative information in the Habsburg sphere / Marija Dalbello -- Beneath the words: Visual messages in French Fin-de-Siecle posters / Phillip Dennis Cate -- How do vou pronounce a pictogram? On "Visible Writing" in comics / Francois Cornilliat -- Inviting words into the image: Multiple meanings in modern and contemporary art / Marilyn Symmes, with Christine Giviskos and Julia Tulovsky -- Color writings: On three polychrome texts / Tiphaine Samoyault -- Buzz Spector, Joyc-aean -- A rose is ? --Kafka-esque -- Actual words of art -- The figurative and the gestural: Chinese writing according to Marcel Granet / Li Jinjia -- Michaux: To

be read. To be seen / Claude Mouchard -- Reading the Alhambra / Richard Serrano -- Catastrophe writings: In the wake of September 11 / Beatrice Fraenkel -- -visible, legible, illegible-: Around a limit / Roxane Jubert -- Sttmnt -- Buzz Spector -- Buzz Spector, Colloquium #1 (Picture puzzles) -- Colloquium #2 -- Colloquium #3 -- Colloquium #4.

Sommario/riassunto

Exploring the concept and history of visual and graphic epistemologies. this engrossing collection of essays by artists, curators, and scholars provides keen insights into the many forms of connection between visibility and legibility. With more than 130 color and black-and-white photographs, Visible Writings sheds new light on the visual dimensions of writing as well as writing's interaction with images in ways that affect our experiences of reading and seeing. Multicultural in character and historical in range, essays discuss pre-Colombian Mesoamerican scripts, inscriptions on ancient Greek vases, medieval illuminations. Renaissance prints, Enlightenment concepts of the legible, and the Western "reading" of Chinese ideograms. A rich array of modern forms. including comics, poster art, typographic signs, scribblings in writers' manuscripts, anthropomorphic statistical pictograms, the street writings of 9/11, intersections between poetry and painting, the use of color in literary texts, and the use of writing in visual art are also addressed. Visible Writings reaches outside the traditional venues of literature and art history into topics that consider design, history of writing, philosophy of language, and the emerging area of visual studies. Marija Dalbello, Mary Shaw, and the other contributors offer both scholars and those with a more casual interest in literature and art the opportunity, simply stated, to see the writing on the wall.