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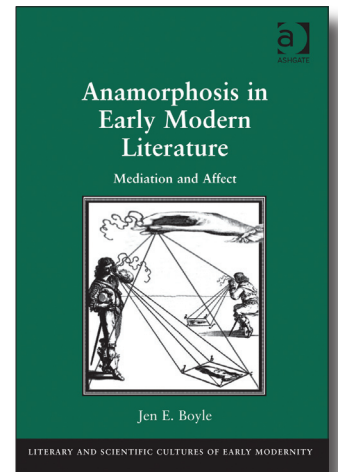


Anamorphosis in Early Modern Literature

Mediation and Affect

Jen E. Boyle, Assistant Professor of English
at Coastal Carolina University

Literary and Scientific Cultures of Early Modernity



Anamorphosis in Early Modern Literature explores the prevalence of anamorphic perspective in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in England. Jen Boyle investigates how anamorphic media flourished in early modern England as an interactive technology and mode of affect in public interactive art, city and garden design, and as a theory and figure in literature, political theory and natural and experimental philosophy. Anamorphic mediation, Boyle brings to light, provided Milton, Margaret Cavendish and Daniel Defoe, among others, with a powerful techno-imaginary for traversing through projective, virtual experience.

Drawing on extensive archival research related to the genre of “practical perspective” in early modern Europe, Boyle offers a scholarly consideration of anamorphic perspective (its technical means, performances, and embodied practices) as an interactive aesthetics and cultural imaginary.

Ultimately, Boyle demonstrates how perspective media inflected a diverse set of knowledges and performances related to embodiment, affect, and collective consciousness.

Includes 18 b&w illustrations
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“...a masterful study of political, philosophical and epistemological spaces in English literature from *Eikonoclastes* and *Leviathan* to *Defoe’s Journal of the Plague Year*. Ranging from 17th century Epicureanism to the invention of calculus, from early modern political theory and epistemology to baroque allegory, Boyle’s monograph is intellectually adventurous.”

—Graham Hammill, SUNY at Buffalo

Contents: Introduction: the anamorphic image; Early modern anamorphosis: “practical perspective”, Lucy Hutchinson’s epicurean bodies, and Thomas Hobbes’ “vanishing point”; John Milton and the (new) media image: affect and the anamorphic imaginary; Margaret Cavendish’s double perception: affective technics and biopolitical fictions; The observer in Milton’s garden and the body of anamorphosis; Projecting the modern: new perspective, the spaces of nationalism, and anamorphic territory; Affect and perceptual technics in Daniel Defoe’s *A Journal of the Plague Year*; Bibliography; Index.

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