Speaking Pictures: English Emblem Books And Renaissance Culture

by Michael Bath

Also, Philip Sidney's notion of "speaking pictures" needs to be revisited, in view of the ontology and epistemology of art, as a ground-breaking model for understanding the multimediality of cultural representations. The first part of the following essay is devoted to this. These are particularly conspicuous in the influence of emblem theory in England and in Renaissance literary practice related to that. In the final section I intend to show that Shakespeare's intriguing, although implicit, poetics is a telling example of how Renaissance visual culture enabled a model that put equal stress on inspiration and imitation, and also on the part of the audience, whose imagination had (and still has) to work in cooperation with the author's intention. Speaking Pictures: English Emblem Books and Renaissance Culture. New York: Longman, 1994. WEEK 2, Fri, Oct. 9th: Meta-Discourse I: Poetry in Motion: Renaissance Emblem Theories. Mignault of Dijon, Claude. Theoretical Writings on the Emblem: a Critical Edition. trans. Further Reading for Renaissance Emblem Theories (Available online): Speaking Pictures: Philip Sidney, Defense of Poesy (1583)** (U of Oregon) Body & Soul: Paolo Giovio, Dialogo dell'imprese militari et amorose (1555) (EEBO) Mnemonics: Francis Bacon, Advancement of Learning (1605)** (II.XV.3) Ideograms & Enigmas: Pierre Gautruche, Hieroglyphics (1678) (EEBO).