



# The Embodied Eye: Religious Visual Culture and the Social Life of Feeling

*David Morgan*

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## **The Embodied Eye: Religious Visual Culture and the Social Life of Feeling** David Morgan

David Morgan builds on his previous groundbreaking work to offer this new, systematically integrated theory of the study of religion as visual culture. Providing key tools for scholars across disciplines studying the materiality of religions, Morgan gives an accessibly written theoretical overview including case studies of the ways seeing is related to touching, hearing, feeling, and such ephemeral experiences as dreams, imagination, and visions. The case studies explore both the high and low of religious visual culture: Catholic traditions of the erotic Sacred Heart of Jesus, the unrecognizability of the Virgin in the Fatima apparitions, the prehistory of Warner Sallman's face of Jesus, and more. Basing the study of religious images and visual practices in the relationship between seeing and the senses, Morgan argues against reductionist models of "the gaze," demonstrating that vision is not something that occurs in abstraction, but is a fundamental way of embodying the human self.

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