



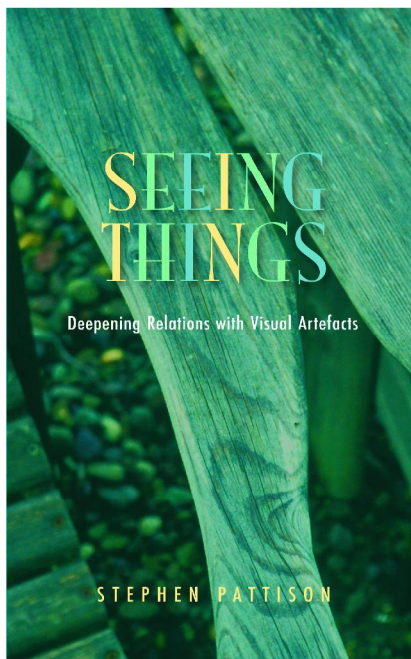
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SEEING THINGS

Deepening Relations with Visual Artefacts

STEPHEN PATTISON



Taken from the author's Gifford Lectures at Aberdeen University in 2007 '*Seeing Things: From Mantlepieces to Masterpieces*', this highly original book will appeal across humanities departments including visual studies, theology, art history, sociology, anthropology and ethics. It considers the experience of perceiving visual objects, from high art to everyday artefacts, analysing the problems encountered with the ways people in Western culture look upon the world and things.

Sight is one of the main ways the world is perceived and related to. Yet it is mostly assumed rather than actively reflected on. Objects designated as art and the realm of aesthetics attract some active attention and reflection, but most of the visible world is ignored in the context of what the author describes as our 'ordinary blindness'. The book argues that the range of things we choose to see and value is arbitrary and limited and the ways in which we relate to things and objects are mostly crude and un-nuanced. The book encourages and argues for ways to visualise the world more critically and widely.

STEPHEN PATTISON is Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Practice at the University of Birmingham. He was the Gifford Lecturer in the University of Aberdeen in 2007.

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