Contents

Foreword	XI
Acknowledgments	xiii
Introduction	1
Part 1: 'Pregnant Gourds' and 'Delirious Pumpkins': The Semiotic Matrix of Cucurbits	11
Part 2: Implications	81
1 Is a literary work written by the author or by the readers?	83
2 Does a literary work write itself?	94
3 Sign and signification	124
4 Independent creation versus tradition	
5 On the nature of signs used in cucurbitic metaphors	154
Conclusion	169
Notes	172
Works cited	209
Translations	220
Index	224

Plates

between pages 80 and 81

I	Juan Sánches Cotán, Still Life
II	Frans Floris, Adam and Eve
111	Ferdinando Maria Campani T

III Ferdinando Maria Campani, The Temptation of Adam

IV Lambert Doomer, HirtenstückV Lambert Doomer, Distelstaude

VI Albrecht Dürer, St. Jerome in His Study

VII Giuseppe Archimboldo, Vertumnus-Rudolf II

VIII Drawing by W. Miller

IX American comic postcard

X Faustino Bocchi, Bambocciate

XI Giant cucurbits