

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations	xi
Preface.....	xiii
Acknowledgments.....	xv
Introduction.....	1
Chapter One	
Surveying the Terrain: Blindness without Metaphor, Beauty	
without Metaphysics	21
Dislodging the Ocular from the “Borrowed Dwelling” of Metaphor	22
Isolating the Aesthetic Significance of Blindness.....	28
Stopping at Appearance: Why the Question of Reality Does Not Arise.....	37
Identification, Orientation, and Genuine Aesthetic Appraisal	42
Chapter Two	
The Musician’s Night: Moving to the Beat of the Panorama in	
J. M. Synge’s <i>The Well of the Saints</i>	47
The Perceptual Predispositions of the Playwright.....	47
Gauging the Significance of Synge’s Achievement.....	51
The Critical Misapplication of Theoretical Concerns.....	54
The Case of a Rivalling Non-Visual Aesthetic	62
The Fiddler’s Take on the Aesthetics of Blindness.....	74
Wonders Enough: The Reasoning Behind the Refusal of Vision	83
Literature First; Blindness Afterwards?	87

Chapter Three**The Portraitist's Night: Apertures of Memory in Yeats's**

<i>On Baile's Strand</i>	95
All Metaphor, Blind Man: Blindness that Is Delighted to Be but Clever	98
Beauty as a Light-Report on that Woman's Remembered Countenance ...	104
Blind Man and the Balancing Centeredness of the Periphery	109
"The Very Tint": Resemblance and the "Aesthetic Moment"	116
Blindness as a Means to Effecting a Defamiliarization of the Visual	123

Chapter Four**The Replicator's Night: Brian Friel's Portrayal of a**

<i>Maladministered Aesthetic Priming in Molly Sweeney</i>	131
Intertextuality, Palimpsest, and the Art of Being Available	135
Full Marks, Empty Data: Perception, Mediation, and the Acquisition of Knowledge	142
Education, Nomenclature, and Difference: A Glance Behind a Suspiciously Excellent Testimony	147
Midnight in the Garden of Appeal and Aversion: The Subjection of Blind Learners to 'Visionist' Aesthetic Tutelage	158
Attending to the Differential: The Enlisting of Unearthed Reserves	165
Do Sanctionings of Subjectivity Lead to Trivializations of the Aesthetic?	171
The Pervasiveness of a Repetition Compulsion	179

Chapter Five**Blindness, Beauty, and the Psychology of Perception**.....195

Beauty and the "Lower" Sense of Touch	196
Rechanneling Beauty: The Unity of the Senses	200
Some Psychological Features of an Aesthetics of Blindness	203
Stars Not of Fire: Blindness and the Materials of Beauty	207

Chapter Six**From the Birdsong, the Bird: The Aesthetic Experiences of**

<i>Blind People</i>	213
The Price of Proper Placement: Order, Disorder, and the Yield of Deliberation in the Sightless Experience	218
Orders of Knowledge: Experiential and Discursive Familiarity with Beauty	227
Aesthetic Order	236

Progressively Blind People and the Residue of Visual Criteria.....243
The Pains of Adaptation.....255
Psychical Distance and “Foggy Vision”261
An Aesthetics of Blindness266

Chapter Seven

**Novelties of Lightlessness: Imaginative Aestheticizations of
Lived Experience.....273**

Works Cited301

Index.....315