

CONTENTS

Preface xiii

Introduction 1

PART ONE. LAOCOÖNS

1. *Laocoön* I: 1506 29
2. *Laocoön* A and B: Before 1506 40
3. *Laocoön* II: Winckelmann, Lessing, Goethe 50
4. *Laocoön* III: After 1960 62

PART TWO. COMPARANDA

5. Problematic Exemplars; or, What's in a Name? 75
Titian, *Sacred and Profane Love*: Entitlement and the Dialectic 75
Velázquez, *Las Meninas*: Epistemological Argument 80
Picasso, *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*: Ontology versus Teleology 87

PART THREE. THE INTERPRETER'S CLAIM

6. "My *Laocoön*" 93

Notes 107

Illustrations 133

Index 137