## Contents

List of Illustrations Acknowledgments		vii xv
Introduction		1
1	Through the Veils of Pleasant Fictions	13
2	Civilization and its Malcontents	25
3	In the Empire of Eros	49
4	Heroes' Quests and Conquests	89
5	The Powers and Limits of Art	131
6	Fateful Figures	153
7	Enter Velázquez—The Philosophical Quartet	183
8	The Contemplative Mars	193
9	Servants and Masters	201
10	Hunts and the Closing of the Circle	225
Conclusion: Forms of Visual Rhetoric		245
Bibliography Index		273 289