



The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium

By Bissera V. Pentcheva

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva

Today we take the word icon to mean a sign, or we equate it with portraits of Christ and the saints. In *The Sensual Icon*, Bissera Pentcheva demonstrates how icons originally manifested the presence of the Holy Spirit in matter. Christ was the ideal icon, emerging through the Incarnation; so, too, were the bodies of the stylites (column-saints) penetrated by the divine pneuma (breath or spirit), or the Eucharist, or the Justinianic space of Hagia Sophia filled with the reverberations of chants and the smoke of incense. Iconoclasm (726—843) challenged these Spirit-centered definitions of the icon, eventually restricting the word to mean only the lifeless imprint (typos) of Christ's visual characteristics on matter.

By the tenth century, mixed-media relief icons in gold, repoussé, enamel, and filigree offered a new paradigm. The sun's rays or flickering candlelight, stirred by drafts of air and human breath, animated the rich surfaces of these objects; changing shadows endowed their eyes with life. The Byzantines called this spectacle of polymorphous appearance *poikilia*, that is, presence effects sensually experienced. These icons enabled viewers in Constantinople to detect animation in phenomenal changes rather than in pictorial or sculptural naturalism. Liveliness, as the goal of the Byzantine mixed-media relief icon, thus challenges the Renaissance ideal of lifelikeness, which dominated the Western artistic tradition before the arrival of the modern. Through a close examination of works of art and primary texts and language associated with these objects, and through her new photographs and film capturing their changing appearances, Pentcheva uncovers the icons' power to transform the viewer from observer to participant, communing with the divine.

↓ [Download The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses ...pdf](#)

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium

By Bissera V. Pentcheva

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva

Today we take the word icon to mean a sign, or we equate it with portraits of Christ and the saints. In *The Sensual Icon*, Bissera Pentcheva demonstrates how icons originally manifested the presence of the Holy Spirit in matter. Christ was the ideal icon, emerging through the Incarnation; so, too, were the bodies of the stylites (column-saints) penetrated by the divine pneuma (breath or spirit), or the Eucharist, or the Justinianic space of Hagia Sophia filled with the reverberations of chants and the smoke of incense. Iconoclasm (726—843) challenged these Spirit-centered definitions of the icon, eventually restricting the word to mean only the lifeless imprint (typos) of Christ's visual characteristics on matter.

By the tenth century, mixed-media relief icons in gold, repoussé, enamel, and filigree offered a new paradigm. The sun's rays or flickering candlelight, stirred by drafts of air and human breath, animated the rich surfaces of these objects; changing shadows endowed their eyes with life. The Byzantines called this spectacle of polymorphous appearance *poikilia*, that is, presence effects sensually experienced. These icons enabled viewers in Constantinople to detect animation in phenomenal changes rather than in pictorial or sculptural naturalism. Liveliness, as the goal of the Byzantine mixed-media relief icon, thus challenges the Renaissance ideal of lifelikeness, which dominated the Western artistic tradition before the arrival of the modern. Through a close examination of works of art and primary texts and language associated with these objects, and through her new photographs and film capturing their changing appearances, Pentcheva uncovers the icons' power to transform the viewer from observer to participant, communing with the divine.

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva Bibliography

- Rank: #3503607 in Books
- Published on: 2010-09-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x 1.14" w x 7.00" l, 3.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

 [Download The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

“In this, far and away the most ambitious new account of the Byzantine icon, Pentcheva explores the powers and limits of visualization. A book sure to have resonance way beyond its field.” —Joseph Koerner, Harvard University

“The Sensual Icon is a dazzling book, rich in content, brilliant in argumentation, and impressively original. Tracing cross-currents of production, perception, and thinking about the sacred icon within a firm historical context, it proposes a radical reconceptualization of the major form of Byzantine artistic expression.

“A work of flawless scholarship and spirited imagination, *The Sensual Icon* animates a remarkable artistic legacy and the historical and theological forces that engendered it. Like Hans Belting’s *Likeness and Presence*, it is destined to guide a whole generation’s view of medieval art.” —Herbert L. Kessler, The Johns Hopkins University

“The Sensual Icon is a major new contribution to Byzantine art history and will be an important turning point in our understanding of the aesthetics and reception of the icon in Byzantium.” —Henry Maguire, The Johns Hopkins University

From the Inside Flap

Today we take the word "icon" to mean "a sign," or we equate it with portraits of Christ and the saints. In *The Sensual Icon*, Bissera Pentcheva demonstrates how icons originally manifested the presence of the Holy Spirit in matter. Christ was the ideal icon, emerging through the Incarnation; so, too, were the bodies of the stylites (column-saints) penetrated by the divine pneuma (breath or spirit), or the Eucharist, or the Justinianic space of Hagia Sophia filled with the reverberations of chants and the smoke of incense. Iconoclasm (726–843) challenged these Spirit-centered definitions of the icon, eventually restricting the word to mean only the lifeless imprint (typos) of Christ's visual characteristics on matter.

By the tenth century, mixed-media relief icons in gold, repouss, enamel, and filigree offered a new paradigm. The sun's rays or flickering candlelight, stirred by drafts of air and human breath, animated the rich surfaces of these objects; changing shadows endowed their eyes with life. The Byzantines called this spectacle of polymorphous appearance *poikilia*, that is, presence effects sensually experienced. These icons enabled viewers in Constantinople to detect animation in phenomenal changes rather than in pictorial or sculptural naturalism. "Liveliness," as the goal of the Byzantine mixed-media relief icon, thus challenges the Renaissance ideal of "lifelikeness," which dominated the Western artistic tradition before the arrival of the modern. Through a close examination of works of art and primary texts and language associated with these objects, and through her new photographs and film capturing their changing appearances, Pentcheva uncovers the icons' power to transform the viewer from observer to participant, communing with the divine.

About the Author

Bissera V. Pentcheva is Associate Professor of Art History at Stanford University. She is the author of *Icons and Power: The Mother of God in Byzantium* (Penn State, 2006).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hubert Ray:

The book untitled The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium is the reserve that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to you actually. The language that publisher use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of analysis when write the book, hence the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Robert Monson:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a reserve. The book The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book possesses high quality.

Jerry Thomas:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium, you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Jo Villegas:

Beside that The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium in your phone, it could give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or details. The information and the knowledge you might got here is fresh from the oven so don't be worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium because this book offers to your account readable information. Do you occasionally have book but you would not get what it's facts concerning. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this in the hand. The Enjoyable set up here cannot be questionable, just like treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss it? Find this book in addition to read it from at this point!

Download and Read Online The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva #JHX5GN63Z0B

Read The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva for online ebook

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva books to read online.

Online The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva ebook PDF download

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva Doc

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva Mobipocket

The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva EPub

JHX5GN63Z0B: The Sensual Icon: Space, Ritual, and the Senses in Byzantium By Bissera V. Pentcheva