

# Τέχνες και πραγματικότητα

Ο εικαστικός κόσμος της ελληνικής Αρχαιότητας

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### Abstract

In the postmodern era, it is increasingly difficult to dispute the notion that the images overwhelming us in everyday life do not merely represent reality but actively shape it, constituting, in fact, its primary construction material. The central aim of this book is to demonstrate that images did not acquire this ontological significance solely through the media and digital revolution of postmodernity but have always been an integral component of reality. Thus, it becomes possible to craft a history of images that transcends the mere tracing of stylistic and aesthetic developments, delving deeper into understanding the visions that each distinct cultural environment created about the world and human's place within it. Following a discussion of selected philosophical, anthropological, semiotic, and other approaches to the worldmaking power of images,

the book focuses on the historical case of Greek Antiquity. Every world, in order to possess the authority of reality and offer normative ideals to a human community, must establish comprehensive and holistic constructs of space, time, humanity, the Other, and so forth. The universe of images produced during the first pre-Christian millennium in Greece and the broader sphere of its cultural influence fulfilled this role with remarkable efficacy. So much so that, through multiple Roman, Christian, and modern appropriations and transformations, it continues to exert significant influence on the ways we envision the world and ourselves today. By studying the mechanisms of the emergence and operation of the visual world of ancient Greece, we can therefore achieve a deeper understanding of the multifaceted function of images in the contemporary era.

