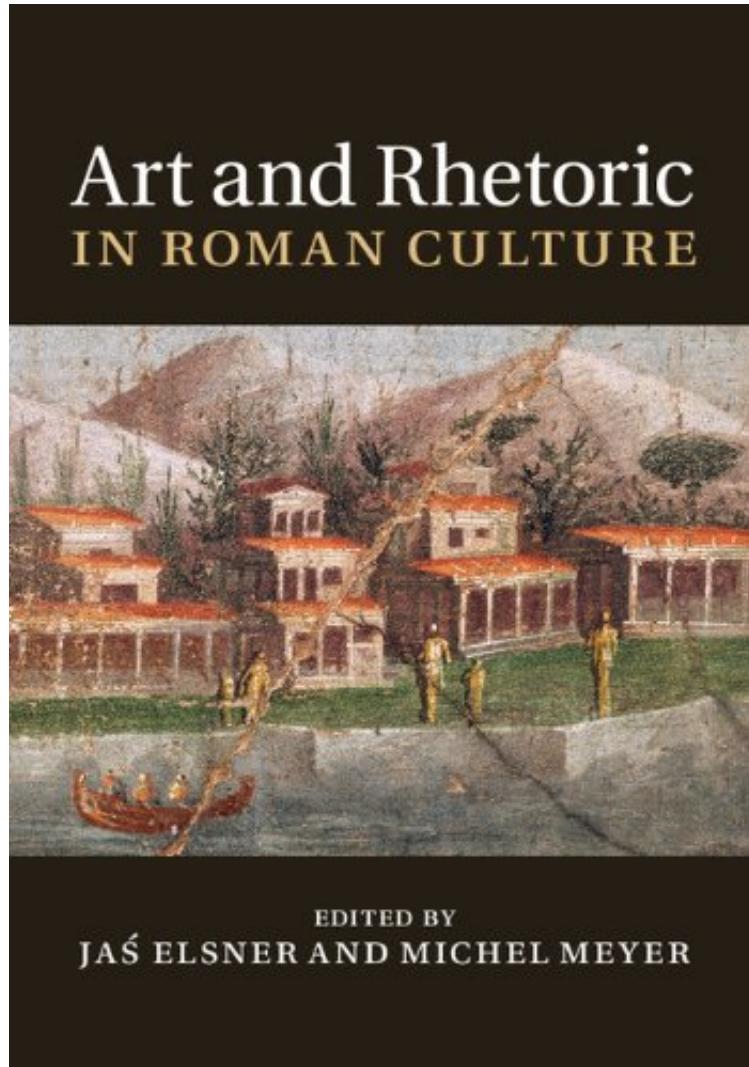


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Art and Rhetoric in Roman Culture

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Rhetoric was fundamental to education and to cultural aspiration in the Greek and Roman worlds. It was one of the key aspects of antiquity that slipped under the line between the ancient world and Christianity erected by the early Church in late antiquity. Ancient rhetorical theory is obsessed with examples and discussions drawn from visual material. This book mines this rich seam of theoretical analysis from within Roman culture to present an internalist model for some aspects of how the Romans understood, made and appreciated their art. The understanding of public

monuments like the Arch of Titus or Trajan's Column or of imperial statuary, domestic wall painting, funerary altars and sarcophagi, as well as of intimate items like children's dolls, is greatly enriched by being placed in relevant rhetorical contexts created by the Roman world.

About the AuthorJa? Elsner is Humfry Payne Senior Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Visiting Professor of Art History at the University of Chicago and Senior Research Keeper at the British Museum. His publications include numerous articles and books including *Imperial Rome and Christian Triumph: The Art of the Roman Empire AD 100-450* (1998) and *Roman Eyes: Visuality and Subjectivity in Art and Text* (2007).Michel Meyer is Professor of Rhetoric, Philosophy and Aesthetics at the Universiteacute; Libre de Bruxelles. He has published many works of philosophy, covering literary criticism, rhetoric, the passions, art, theatre and Roman art. Several of his works have appeared in English. He is known to be the father of a new philosophy based on the priority of questioning in thought, called problematology. Recent books include *Rome et la naissance de l'art europeacute;en* (2006) and *Principia Rhetorica* (2008).