

*Scenic Views:
Representing Modern Visuality in
the Stereoscopic Landscape* *Scenic Views:
Representing Modern Visuality in
the Stereoscopic Landscape*

By
DEVON R. MORDELL, B.F.A.

A Major Research Project
Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the MA degree in Cultural Studies and Critical Theory

McMaster University, ON

© Devon Mordell, August 2008

MASTER OF ARTS (2008)
(CULTURAL STUDIES AND CRITICAL THEORY)

McMaster University
Hamilton, ON

TITLE:

Scenic Views: Representing Modern Visuality in the Stereoscopic Landscape

AUTHOR:

Devon Mordell, B.F.A. (University of Windsor)

SUPERVISOR:

Dr. Grace Kehler

NUMBER OF PAGES:

iv, 69

ABSTRACT:

Scenic Views explores the relationship between representations of the natural landscape in the nineteenth-century stereoscope and the aesthetic, scientific and socioeconomic discourses which shaped modern visuality. Contending that the scenic content of the stereoscope has not yet been adequately theorized in terms of its three-dimensional experience, the project analyses the imagery of the stereograph as it was radically reconfigured within the space of the stereoscope. Addressing two specific motifs of the stereo-view - the solitary figure in the landscape and the stereoscopic sublime - the author discusses their engagement with elements of the proto-spectacle, Romantic painting, machine production and a rationalized model of bodily sensation. Both reflective and constitutive of the ways of seeing constructed by modern visuality, the landscape stereo-view articulated an understanding of vision as heterogeneous, unstable and diffuse.

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations.....	iv
Introduction.....	1
Regarding Content.....	14
Seeing Doubled: Viewing the Solitary Viewer.....	25
Under the Stereoscope: Examining the Sublime Landscape.....	40
(Dis)embodied Subjectivity and Machine Vision.....	58
Illustration Sources.....	66
Works Cited.....	67

List of Illustrations

Fig. 1: Wheatstone's reflecting stereoscope.....	6
Fig. 2: Line drawings from Wheatstone's experiments.....	8
Fig. 3: Brewster's lenticular stereoscope.....	9
Fig. 4: Anthony, <i>Bastion Fall</i> stereograph.....	25
Fig. 5: Friedrich, <i>The Wanderer above the Mists</i> (1817-18).....	27
Fig. 6: Stereoscopes in use.....	32
Fig. 7: The Kaiserpanorama.....	32
Fig. 8: <i>Dissolving Views</i> engraving.....	34
Fig. 9: Reynaud's Théâtre-Optique.....	34
Fig. 10: A stereoscopic projection in <i>La Nature</i>	35
Fig. 11: Lamy, <i>Glacier du Viescherkorn</i> stereograph.....	40
Fig. 12: J.M.W. Turner, <i>Snowstorm</i> (1812).....	45
Fig. 13: Charnaux, <i>Guides Searching For Lost Comrades</i> stereograph.....	50