

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements x

List of images xii

Introduction – Painting as thought 5

Questions 5

Rethinking thought 17

Merleau-Ponty's trans-dimensional investigations 27

An incarnational logic 41

'Digging in the same place' – Merleau-Ponty's broad project 47

PART ONE Painting – Rethinking thought beyond dualism and positivism 55

1 'Nature' and 'consciousness' – Merleau-Ponty's critical encounter with dualism 59

Broken? 59

The problems of rationalism and empiricism 68

The naïve consciousness and its reconstructive powers 74

The significance of Gestalt 81

Describing behaviour – Its limitations and scope 84

2 The symbolic forms and the question of integrated being 88

Obstacles 88

The three forms of behaviour 90

Beyond inherited structures 94

PART TWO Painting – Rethinking thought as perceptual and embodied 103

- 3 Description and the re-education of sight 107
 How to start again 107
 Embodied perception – Our *only* access to the real? 112
 Description – The first philosophical act 121
 Into the base of ‘inhuman’ nature 129
- 4 Embodied thought 135
 How do bodies think? 135
 Peculiar permanence 136
 The body in its intentional being 143
 Intersubjectivity, inter-corporeality and otherness – Foundational hospitality 149

PART THREE Painting – Rethinking thought as ‘silence’ and ‘speech’ 155

- 5 The being of language, reconceived 159
 A new index of curvature 159
 Merleau-Ponty and the priority of expression 173
 Syntax 177
 Language, truth and ‘universality’ 183
- 6 Visual language and the ‘unity’ of painting 188
 Modern painting and the paradoxes of communication 188
 Cultures of display and debate – Renegotiating particularity-generality 197

PART FOUR Painting – Rethinking thought as ‘secret science’ 203

- 7 Visibility, the ‘flesh’ of the world 207
 ‘The common stuff ... is the *visible*’ 207
 The visible and the *invisible* 210
 Indirect ontology and anonymous visibility 212

Chiasm, illusion, dis-illusion 217

Immersive thought and 'having at a distance' 223

8 *Visual treatises and the search for depth* 232

Painterly thought as secret science 232

Intermundane space 233

Depth of being and body 238

The painter's effort and the fragility of the real 242

Visual treatises 246

Notes 263

Bibliography 316

Index 329