

# VISUAL CULTURE OF THE ANCIENT AMERICAS

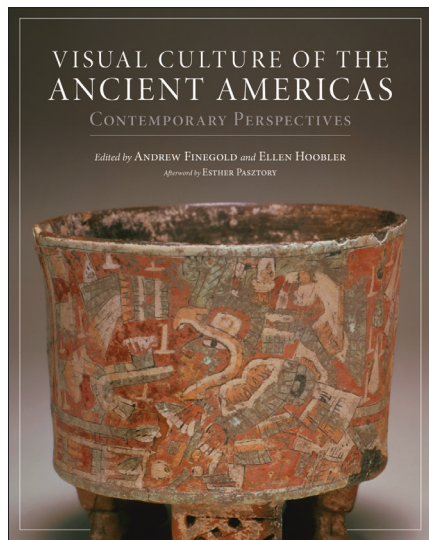
## Contemporary Perspectives

Edited by Andrew Finegold and Ellen Hoobler

Afterword by Esther Pasztory

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*New perspectives on the arts and cultures of the ancient Americas*

In the past fifty years, the study of indigenous and pre-Columbian art has evolved from a groundbreaking area of inquiry in the mid-1960s to an established field of research. This period also spans the career of art historian Esther Pasztory. Few scholars have made such a broad and lasting impact as Pasztory, both in terms of our understanding of specific facets of ancient American art as well as in our appreciation of the evolving analytical tendencies related to the broader field of study as it developed and matured. The essays collected in this volume reflect scholarly rigor and new perspectives on ancient American art and are contributed by many of Pasztory's former students and colleagues.

A testament to the sheer breadth of Pasztory's accomplishments, *Visual Culture of the Ancient Americas* covers a wide range of topics, from Aztec picture-writing to nineteenth-century European scientific illustration of Andean sites in Peru. The essays, written by both established

and rising scholars from across the field, focus on three areas: the ancient Andes, including its representation by European explorers and scholars of the nineteenth century; Classic period Mesoamerica and its uses within the cultural heritage debate of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; and Postclassic Mesoamerica, particularly the deeper and heretofore often hidden meanings of its cultural production. Figures, maps, and color plates demonstrate the vibrancy and continued allure of indigenous artworks from the ancient Americas.

"Pre-Columbian art can give more," Pasztory declares, and the scholars featured here make a compelling case for its incorporation into art theory as a whole. The result is a collection of essays that celebrates Pasztory's central role in the development of the field of Ancient American visual studies, even as it looks toward the future of the discipline.

**Andrew Finegold** is Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois, Chicago, where he specializes in the visual culture of the ancient Americas. **Ellen Hoobler** is Assistant Professor of Art History at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and an expert in pre-Columbian art of Mexico. **Esther Pasztory** is the Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor Emerita in Pre-Columbian Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University.

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