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The anthropological outline of the image in Plessner

The peculiar modalities of the image configuration process, which include the aesthetical bond of the image to the optical perception and the persistence of vision beyond pure sensation, were indicative for Plessner of the great potential of abstraction in the operating structures of the experience. The aim of this paper is to emphasize the originality of Plessner's theory on the perceived image and his attempts to identify its specific aesthetic-sensory qualities which give the objective content to the image itself, making it capable of influencing human action. Plessner's theory of the image has relevant theoretical implications as well for figurative arts. In fact, a picture represents a peculiar view of the optical field that, through modifications of the intuitive evidence, may exponentially amplify the chances to understand reality.