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*Eterotopias of the glance. The "Imaginary Museum" of Hans Belting*

Worldwide distinguished art historian Hans Belting is committed to the achievement of a new *science of the image*, which should exceed the schemes of traditional art history. The crisis of the relationship between representation and reality, which characterizes contemporary art, is at the background of his research. Images have a value *per se*, not for the things they refer to: human «image making» has a precise symbolical meaning. Not only: works of art are only a small part of the existing images. In order to understand images it is necessary to search into the symbolical practices and the forms of life that created them. Comparing images from very different times and places within this new framework, Belting's experienced glance tries to reveal their anthropological function: *to make present what is absent*, through the interaction between «body-spectator» and «medium-support».