

# MIMESIS

---

Matthew Potolsky

 **Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group  
NEW YORK AND LONDON

# CONTENTS

SERIES EDITOR'S PREFACE	ix
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	x
Introduction: Approaching Mimesis	1
 <b>PART ONE FOUNDATIONS</b>	 <b>13</b>
<b>1 Plato's <i>Republic</i></b>	<b>15</b>
The Invention of the Image	15
Poetry and Censorship: Books Two and Three	17
Mirrors and Forms: Book Ten	21
Poetry and the City	27
<b>2 Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i></b>	<b>32</b>
Second Nature	32
Tragedy, Plot and Reason	38
The Tragic Effect	43
 <b>PART TWO THREE VERSIONS OF MIMESIS</b>	 <b>47</b>
<b>3 <i>Imitatio</i>: Rhetorical Imitation</b>	<b>49</b>
Mimesis as a Cultural Practice	49
Roman Echoes	54
Ancients and Moderns	59
Genius, Originality and the Anxiety of Influence	65
<b>4 Theatre and Theatricality</b>	<b>71</b>
Spectacle and Spectator	71
<i>Theatrum Mundi</i>	75
Acting, Naturally	81
'The Never Ending Show'	87

<b>5</b>	<b>Realism</b>	<b>92</b>
	The Grapes of Zeuxis	92
	Reflection and Convention	97
	Realism and Sincerity	102
	Pygmalion's Folly: Anti-Realism	107
 <b>PART THREE MIMESIS IN MODERN THEORY</b>		 <b>113</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Mimesis and Identity</b>	<b>115</b>
	Psychic Mimesis	115
	Identification: Freud	118
	The Mirror Stage: Lacan	125
	Performing Race and Gender	128
 <b>7</b>	 <b>Mimesis and Culture</b>	 <b>136</b>
	Sympathetic Magic	136
	Mimicry and the Mimetic Faculty	140
	Mimetic Desire: Girard	145
	Simulacra and Hyperreality	150
 <b>Conclusion: Memetics</b>		 <b>157</b>
 GLOSSARY		 163
SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING		165
BIBLIOGRAPHY		168
INDEX		173