

Contents



Contributors	xi
--------------	----

The Materiality of Communication	I
<i>K. Ludwig Pfeiffer</i>	

MEDIA OF COMMUNICATION AND HISTORICAL THRESHOLDS

Ancient Egypt and the Materiality of the Sign	15
<i>Jan Assmann</i>	

The Body of the Book: The Media Transition from Manuscript to Print	32
<i>Jan-Dirk Müller</i>	

Dimensions of Literature: A Speculative Approach	45
<i>K. Ludwig Pfeiffer</i>	

Comments on a Ball: Nietzsche's Play on the Typewriter	70
<i>Martin Stingelin</i>	

The Scene of the Screen: Envisioning Cinematic and Electronic "Presence"	83
<i>Vivian Sobchack</i>	

The Early History of German Television: The Slow Development of a Fast Medium	107
<i>Monika Elsner, Thomas Müller, and Peter M. Spangenberg</i>	

SOUNDS, COLORS, AND THEIR NONSEMANTIC FUNCTIONS

"The Matter of Music Is Sound and Body-Motion"	147
<i>Albrecht Riethmüller</i>	

"Dissonance" in Music <i>Andreas Ballstaedt</i>	157
Rhythm and Meaning <i>Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht</i>	170
Tàpies, or the Materiality of Painting <i>Klaus Dirscherl</i>	183
"Wilder Shores of Love": Cy Twombly's Straying Signs <i>Stephen Bann</i>	198
EMBODIMENT AND THE LIMITS OF SIGNIFICATION	
Body and Performance <i>Paul Zumthor</i>	217
Girolamo Cardano and the Melancholy of Writing <i>Helmut Pfeiffer</i>	227
Travel Writing <i>Charles Grivel</i>	242
Materiality, Materialism, Performance <i>Karlheinz Barck</i>	258
The Body Thinks: The Immune System and the Process of Somatic Individuation <i>Francisco J. Varela and Mark R. Anspach</i>	273
Can Thought Go on Without a Body? <i>Jean-François Lyotard</i>	286
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AND THEIR DISCONTENTS	
The Fall of the Roman Empire <i>Bernhard Siegert</i>	303
Unconditional Surrender <i>Friedrich Kittler</i>	319
Simulated Breakdowns <i>Wulf R. Halbach</i>	335
Talking About AIDS <i>Alois Hahn</i>	344
Language, Images, and the Postmodern Predicament <i>Wlad Godzich</i>	355

How Can the Mind Participate in Communication?	371
<i>Niklas Luhmann</i>	

A Farewell to Interpretation	389
<i>Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht</i>	

REFERENCE MATTER

Notes	405
Works Cited	413
Index	441