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The Rhetoric of Illusion: Persuasion and Response in Forgery, the Arts and Other Deceptions (1600-1750)

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Citation

Hylkema, J. J. (2019, June 20). *The Rhetoric of Illusion: Persuasion and Response in Forgery, the Arts and Other Deceptions (1600-1750)*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/74295>

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Issue Date: 2019-06-20

PROPOSITIONS

The Rhetoric of Illusion: Persuasion and Response in Forgery, the Arts and Other Deceptions (1600-1750)

- I. Samuel van Hoogstraten's claim in *Inleyding tot de Hooge Schoole der Schilderkonst* (1678) that illusionist art is 'permissible', evokes an impermissible other: creative forgery. (Van Hoogstraten, *Inleyding*, 25)
- II. Forgery played an important role in the development of the distinction between scholarship and fiction in the early modern period.
- III. Until the point of exposure, the roles of the early modern illusionist artist and forger were similar in terms of their respective relationships with their work as well as their audience.
- IV. Alexander Bendo's explanation of why he might appear 'a counterfeit' involves a radical departure from the hierarchy between prototype and imitation in 17th-century theories of mimesis. (Rochester, *To all gentlemen, ladies, and others*, 2-3)
- V. The rejection of illusionism in the work of Jonathan Richardson and Joshua Reynolds reflects the victory of the Moderns in the Battle of the Books.
- VI. The persuasiveness of any forgery depends on the forger's skill in epistemological analysis.
- VII. Forgery is a young man's game.
- VIII. *Ethos* and *pathos* must go hand in hand in the forger's strategies of persuasion.
- IX. 'History', Johan Huizinga observes in 'The Task of Cultural History' (1929), 'is the interpretation of the significance that the past has for us'. The same applies to forgery. (Huizinga, 'The Task of Cultural History', 58)
- X. Forgery is a game of cat and mouse. In forgery studies, one must play six degrees of separation.
- XI. Sir Ernst Gombrich's work as an interpreter and translator at the BBC Monitoring Service during the Second World War was to have a profound influence on his development of iconology, particularly in relation to the notions of context and the intended audience.
- XII. The rose-ringed parakeet is an asset to the town of Leiden.