Chaos, Order and Opacity Legal Emblems and Shakespeare’s Stage

The emergence of the art of emblems accompanies the rise of common law and the rise of the Elizabethan stage as a *theatrum mundi*. Emblems mark the intersection of sovereign rule and administrative practice, of law and a new state and stage of governance. On the threshold, which leads from sovereign rule to modern forms of governmentality, emblems and the theater offer diametrically opposed tendencies of media politics: of juridical order and social opacity.

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