Contents

List of figures .......................... viii
Acknowledgements .................... x
List of abbreviations .................. xii

Introduction ............................ 1
1 Beyond the polis: rethinking Greek religion ............... 12
2 Parmeniscus’ journey: tracing religious visuality in word and wood .. 36
3 On tyrant property turned ritual object: political power and sacred symbols in ancient Greece and in social anthropology .......... 55
4 Rethinking boundaries: the place of magic in the religious culture of ancient Greece ...... 90
5 The ‘local’ and the ‘universal’ reconsidered: Olympia, dedications and the religious culture of ancient Greece .......... 123
6 ‘The sex appeal of the inorganic’: seeing, touching and knowing the divine during the Second Sophistic .......... 155

Conclusion ......................... 190

Bibliography .......................... 195
Index ................................ 232
Figures

Fig. 1 Artist’s impression of the sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia (the Metron and the treasuries), after Adler et al. 1892, pl. 130. page 132

Fig. 2 Model of the area between the temple of Zeus and the Bouleuterion at Olympia. Courtesy of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen D-DAI-ATH-1968/802 (G. Hellner). All rights reserved. 133

Fig. 3 Helmet dedicated by Miltiades, late sixth century BC. Courtesy of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen D-DAI-ATH-Olympia 3061 (H.-V. Herrmann). Olympia, Archaeological Museum, inv. no. B 2600. All rights reserved. 137

Fig. 4 Zeus with thunderbolt. Courtesy of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen D-DAI-ATH-Olympia 5540 (G. Hellner). Olympia, Archaeological Museum, inv. no. B 5500. All rights reserved. 142

Fig. 5 Zeus and Ganymede, ca. 470 BC. Courtesy of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen D-DAI-ATH-Olympia 2761 (H.-V. Herrmann). Olympia, Archaeological Museum, inv. no. T2, Tc 1049. All rights reserved. 143

Fig. 6 Figurine of an athlete, first half of the fifth century BC. Courtesy of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen D-DAI-ATH-Olympia 810 (H. Wagner). Olympia, Archaeological Museum, inv. no. B 26. All rights reserved. 146

Fig. 7 Head of a wrestler, fourth century BC. Courtesy of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen D-DAI-ATH-HEGE 495 (W. Hege). Olympia,
List of figures

Archaeological Museum, inv. no. B 6439. All rights reserved.

Fig. 8 Roman variant of Praxiteles’ famous statue of Aphrodite (end of first century BC). Munich, Glyptothek, inv. no. 258 (Hans R. Goette). Courtesy of Hans R. Goette.