

ParoleImmagini

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*Poetry, Metaphor, and Imagistic Meaning*

**ABSTRACT** | According to a common conception, poetry is a verbal art that is marked by intense painterly aspirations. How do we make sense of the idea of a “poetic image” and the claim that poetry communicates by way of the production of such images? Images *in what sense*? The point of this paper is to outline a way of thinking about these questions and a strategy for answering them. We will see that we need a theory of the image that is fit for verbal art and thus that contrasts in significant ways with the kinds of image that paintings produce. This should hardly come as a surprise. But in conclusion I will suggest that what we stand to learn about how poems harness images in the production of meaning tells us something interesting about how paintings do, too. In the end, philosophers of poetry and painting alike need an account of how images become freighted with thought, feeling, and aboutness. This is because it is by offering an essentially *metaphorical* image that poets and painters establish that subtle link between art and life, and this is one of the chief ways each is able to endow their works with basic forms of critical and cognitive significance.