

Imagination, Perception, and Memory

1

[T]here are three discernible types of imaging: There is thinking with images, or illustrated supposing; there is thinking through images, or interior dramatic rehearsal; and there is thinking in images, or being an internal spectator.

Eva T. H. Brann, *The World of the Imagination*

Once, when my eighteen-month-old grandson, Nathan, was visiting my house, I interrupted his progress toward the top of a short flight of stairs leading down to the front door and warned him that he was in danger of falling. I said: "If you get too close to that top step, you might fall down the stairs and hit your head on the floor." Nathan, who had stopped when I spoke to him, looked down the stairs. As I watched, I saw his face reflect what he was seeing in his mind: his body falling through space. At, I suspect, the moment of imaged impact, Nathan closed his eyes, opened his mouth, and began to scream. After his mother and I had comforted him, I reflected on the powerful, dramatic result—fear bordering on terror—of the image, or images, appearing somewhere behind Nathan's eyes in what we usually call the mind. The image was not based on actual experience because Nathan had