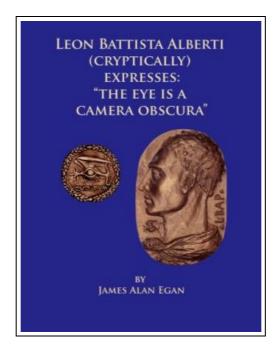
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LEON BATTISTA ALBERTI (CRYPTICALLY) EXPRESSES: THE EYE IS A CAMERA OBSCURA (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book ****** Print on Demand ******. Leon Battista Alberti made several references to miracoli della pittura (miracles of painting) in two of his early works, Vita (Life) and De Pictura (On Painting). After extensive research, author Jim Egan has concluded that these miracles of painting were the amazing full-detail and full-color images seen in a camera obscura. In Latin, camera obscura means dark room. In a dark room with one small hole, the image of what s outside appears projected on the interior wall upside-down and reversed left-to-right. The room can be a people-sized room or a small box, like a pinhole camera. Nowadays, with slide shows, movies, TV, and computers, we re quite accustomed to seeing projected images. But over 575 years ago, back in the 1430s, a camera obscura image would have blown the socks off people. However, there was a down side: this was risky business. Creating full-color, full-motion, magical images inside a dark room might be considered heretical. You might find yourself on the wrong side of a barbecue. If you re so excited that you must share your knowledge, there s a solution: write about it cryptically. Only those in-the-know will catch your gist. That s what Egan thinks Alberti did. Alberti, whose books On Painting and On Architecture revolutionized these two fields, has been explored extensively by art historians for years. Surely they saw that Alberti was talking about a camera obscura. But no. Dozens of the top art historians of the 20th century write that Alberti s description of his small box was definitely not a reference to a camera obscura. Instead, they think it was a show box, a small dark box with a small hole through...



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