



CONTENTS

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	viii
<i>Foreword: The Politics of Beauty</i>	xi
Philippe Descola, translated by Andrea Davoust	
Introduction. Forgotten Aesthetics	1
Mursi Country (<i>Baa Muni</i>), Past and Present	4
Fieldwork	8
Ubiquitous Cattle	10
Cattle Aesthetics and Social Organization	12
From Interactions to Institutions	14
Chapter 1. Poetics of the Self: Anthroponomy	18
Colours of the World	20
Names of Relationships	25
Relationships in Names	29
Perceptions of Relations	33
Chapter 2. The Colour Complex: The Network of Names	41
Names of Status	41
The Colours of People	43
Framing Relationships	48
The Colours of Women	51
Distribution of Colours	55
Points of View Concerning Circulation	62

Chapter 3. The Time of Colours and People: Poems	66
Descriptive Points of View: Wives' Poems	67
The Place of 'Mothers-in-Law'	76
The Prospective Point of View: Ox Poems	77
Awaiting the Sacrifice	79
The Retrospective Point of View: Shield Poems	83
The Poet and Politics	88
Chapter 4. Revealing and Removing Beings: Ephemeral Adornments	90
Showing One's Relational Network: Jewellery	92
Showing One's Pastoral Qualities: Dung Painting	97
The Dangers of Vision: Painting with Clay	99
The Paradox of Disguise: Ornaments for Tourists	103
Chapter 5. Displaying a Common Heritage: Lasting Adornments	109
The Men on the Women's Dresses	109
Synthesis of Scarifications	113
The Total Ornament: The Lip-Plates	122
Chapter 6. Pastoral Vitality: Dances	138
The Preparation of the Bodies	140
'Striking the Dance' (<i>Dak Holog</i>)	143
Common Destiny to Both Humans and Cattle	156
Chapter 7. Complex Cattle Love	161
The Depiction of Cattle	162
The Construction of an Emotional Attachment	169
Killing Cattle: Removing Them from the World before the Eyes of Others	174
Chapter 8. The Poets and Their Ages	182
From Ontogenesis to Grades	183
The Attraction of Grades	186
The Articulation between Aesthetic Styles and Grades	194
The Elders beyond Men	196

Chapter 9. The Restoration of Persons: Rituals	203
Pregnant by Another Man	204
Sowing Dissent	210
Murder among Friends	214
The Land Is Bad	219
Chapter 10. The Resolution of Problems: Politics	227
The Time and the Place of Politics	229
The Requalification of People	234
Times of Crisis	237
The Passage from the Private to the Public	237
General Policy Speech	243
Conclusion	256
<i>References</i>	262
<i>Index</i>	269