

Imagination, Perception, and Memory

A scene designer says: "A few pages into a script and I begin to see places, or rather, bits and pieces of places. Sometimes it's the angle of a wall, sometimes a chair or a lamp. Sometimes I can feel humidity, or cold, and that's usually associated with a sense of color that might eventually become big, sweaty leaves or a row of tree skeletons against a white sky. The more I read, the more I see. Ultimately, what I see isn't nearly as important as the fact that I am seeing things, lots of things. Every time I sit down with a script I know something will be working up there. It's like having money in the bank."

"I have to put myself in a particular frame of mind, sometimes in a particular place, before I begin to feel what color and what shape my lights are



Figure 1-1. A textural collage assembled by Keith Belli to visualize his response to early readings of *Antigone*. Photograph by Richard Ingham.