

Contents

List of Figures	vi
List of Case Studies	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Chronology of 1980s American Culture	ix
Introduction: The Intellectual Context	1
1. Fiction and Poetry	37
2. Art and Photography	63
3. Film and Television	89
4. Music and Performance	123
5. American Culture and Globalization	153
Conclusion: The Cultural Legacy of the 1980s	179
Notes	185
Bibliography	197
Index	221

Figures

1.1	<i>In Country</i> (1989)	54
2.1	<i>Basquiat</i> (1996)	69
3.1	<i>Top Gun</i> (1986)	95
3.2	<i>Back to the Future</i> (1985)	105
3.3	<i>Blue Velvet</i> (1984)	107
3.4	<i>Wall Street</i> (1987)	109
3.5	J. R. Ewing of <i>Dallas</i>	116
3.6	The cast of <i>Hill Street Blues</i> (1981–7)	120
4.1	<i>Do the Right Thing</i> (1989)	126
4.2	Michael Jackson in the ‘Thriller’ video (1983)	128
4.3	<i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> (1985)	132
5.1	The Vietnam Veterans Memorial	174

Case Studies

Introduction	
Televangelism	16
Silicon Valley	27
<i>The Closing of the American Mind</i> (1987)	34
1. Fiction and Poetry	
<i>White Noise</i> (1985)	46
<i>In Country</i> (1985)	52
<i>Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza</i> (1987)	59
2. Art and Photography	
Jean-Michel Basquiat	67
Jeff Koons	71
Cindy Sherman	81
3. Film and Television	
<i>Top Gun</i> (1986)	93
<i>Wall Street</i> (1987)	107
<i>Hill Street Blues</i> (1981–7)	117
4. Music and Performance	
Madonna	129
Public Enemy	144
Split Britches Company	150
5. American Culture and Globalization	
CNN	158
Disneyland Resort Paris	165
The National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington	171