

## CONTENTS

Preface . . . . .	ix
Acknowledgments . . . . .	xi
Conventions . . . . .	xiii
List of Illustrations . . . . .	xvii

### *Chapter One*

Avant-Garde Poetry from China: Text, Context and Metatext . . . . .	1
1. What Went Before . . . . .	1
2. The Unofficial Poetry Scene and the Avant-Garde . . . . .	5
3. Context: Times of Mind, Mayhem and Money . . . . .	13
4. Text: From Elevated to Earthly and from What to How . . . . .	23
5. Metatext: Images of Poetry and Poethood . . . . .	30
6. The Case Studies, and What This Book Wants to Do . . . . .	50

### *Chapter Two*

True Disbelief: Han Dong . . . . .	63
1. The Rejection of Obscure Poetry . . . . .	65
2. An Original Poetics . . . . .	76

### *Chapter Three*

Thanatography and the Poetic Voice: Haizi . . . . .	91
1. Thanatography . . . . .	95
2. The Poetic Voice . . . . .	123

### *Chapter Four*

Exile: Yang Lian, Wang Jiaxin and Bei Dao . . . . .	137
1. Poets in Exile . . . . .	146
2. Exile in Poetry . . . . .	159

### *Chapter Five*

Mind over Matter, Matter over Mind: Xi Chuan . . . . .	187
1. Spirituality versus Materialism and the Barbarians . . . . .	189
2. A Different Voice: Poetry Rising, Poets Falling . . . . .	194
3. Words Capturing Images, Images Capturing Words . . . . .	215

<i>Chapter Six</i>	
Fringe Poetry, But Not Prose: Xi Chuan and Yu Jian . . . . .	223
1. A Wonderful Inadequacy of Definitions . . . . .	225
2. «Salute» and «File 0»: Poetry or Prose? . . . . .	229
3. Fringe Poetry . . . . .	244
<i>Chapter Seven</i>	
Objectification and the Long-Short Line: Yu Jian . . . . .	247
1. Objectification and Subjectification . . . . .	252
2. Long Lines and Blanks . . . . .	274
<i>Chapter Eight</i>	
Narrative Rhythm, Sound and Sense: Sun Wenbo . . . . .	281
1. Content Bias . . . . .	284
2. «The Program»: Content and Plot . . . . .	288
3. «The Program»: Form . . . . .	294
4. Narrativity and Its Context . . . . .	301
<i>Chapter Nine</i>	
The Lower Body: Yin Lichuan and Shen Haobo . . . . .	305
1. Lower Body Poetry . . . . .	307
2. A Poetic Lineage . . . . .	338
<i>Chapter Ten</i>	
Not at Face Value: Xi Chuan's Explicit Poetics . . . . .	345
1. Explanations, Issues and Alchemy . . . . .	347
2. A Bigger Picture . . . . .	360
<i>Chapter Eleven</i>	
Desecrations? Han Dong's and Yu Jian's Explicit Poetics . . . . .	365
1. Poethood According to Han Dong and Yu Jian . . . . .	366
2. Metatextual Styles . . . . .	392
<i>Chapter Twelve</i>	
What Was All the Fuss About? The Popular-Intellectual Polemic . . . . .	399
1. What Were the Issues? . . . . .	400
2. What Was at Stake? . . . . .	441
Appendix: A Chronological Bibliography . . . . .	451

*Chapter Thirteen*

More Than Writing, As We Speak: Yan Jun . . . . .	459
1. Three-Dimensional Performance . . . . .	461
2. Writing, Event Culture and Poetry Opening Up . . . . .	471
Works Cited . . . . .	475
Index and Glossary . . . . .	505