

CONTENTS

Preface of the Editors	9
PART ONE: AMERICAN STUDIES AND CULTURAL STUDIES	11
INTRODUCTION	13
Aesthetic Premises in American Studies	15
The Activist and the Actor: The Re-Authorization of Historical Criticism in New Historicism	39
The Humanities in the Age of Expressive Individualism and Cultural Radicalism	49
Theories of American Culture (and the Transnational Turn in American Studies)	69
American Studies and the Romance with America: Approaching America through Its Ideals	87
PART TWO: AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY AND THE CHANGING FUNCTIONS OF FICTION	105
INTRODUCTION	107
Reading Early American Fiction	109
“The American Romance” and the Changing Functions of the Imaginary	139
Fiction and Fictionality in American Realism	179
Beast / Superman / Consumer: American Literary Naturalism as an Experimental Literature	199

Surface Knowledge and "Deep" Knowledge: The New Realism in Contemporary American Fiction	219
PART THREE: POPULAR CULTURE AND VISUAL ARTS	235
INTRODUCTION	237
The Americanization of Modern Culture: A Cultural History of the Popular Media	239
Theatricality and Excess: A European Look at American Landscape Painting	269
Mass Culture Modernism: Guilt and Subjectivity in <i>Film Noir</i>	285
The Hopper Paradox	319
High and Low: The Race for an Extension of Sensations	339
PART FOUR: LITERARY THEORY AND AESTHETICS	361
INTRODUCTION	363
Why We Need Fiction	
Reception Aesthetics, Literary Anthropology, <i>Funktionsgeschichte</i>	365
Fiction and Justice	385
Aesthetic Experience of the Image	409
Playing Indian: Aesthetic Experience, Recognition, Identity	433
The Search for an "Artless Art:" Aesthetics and American Culture	453
OUTLOOK: ROMANCE WITH AMERICA?	469
The Fallen Hero: John F. Kennedy in Cultural Perspective	471