Contents

Preface

ix

Acknowledgments

xvii

Chapter One

THE VISUAL CHALLENGE Howard Barker's Scenes from an Execution

Chapter Two

THE IMPERFECT EYE
Tom Stoppard's Artist Descending a Staircase
29

Chapter Three

THE MUSICAL DIMENSION
Robert Ferguson's Transfigured Night from Three Perspectives:
In Itself, In the Orbit of Schoenberg, and
In the Shadow of Beckett's Radio Drama . . .
with a Coda on Cage's Roaratorio

Chapter Four

THE MIND
Arthur Kopit's Wings and Harold Pinter's A Slight Ache
99

Chapter Five

THE WORLD

David Rudkin's Cries from Casement As His Bones

Are Brought to Dublin

128

Contents

Chapter Six

THE STAGE
John Arden's Pearl, and The Bagman, Too
152

Afterword

191

Notes

193

Work Cited

225

Index

233