

Contents

PREFATORY NOTE	11
INTRODUCTION	15
1. On Lexical Playfields (Vladimir Nabokov, Jorge Luis Borges)	33
2. The Music of Invisibility (Ralph Ellison)	50
3. A Mode of Motion (Saul Bellow, Joseph Heller)	64
4. Frames Without Pictures (James Purdy)	85
5. Rub Out the Word (William Burroughs)	109
6. Everything Running Down	141
7. Caries and Cabals (Thomas Pynchon)	153
8. The Uncertain Messenger (Kurt Vonnegut, Jr)	181
9. Necessary Landscapes and Luminous Deteriorations (John Hawkes)	202
10. What is the Case? (John Barth)	230
11. Interior Spaciousness—Car, Bell Jar, Tunnel and House (Walker Percy, Sylvia Plath, Susan Sontag, William Gass)	260
12. A Compromised Environment (John Updike)	273
13. Fictionalized Recall—or ‘The Settling of Scores! The Pursuit of Dreams!’ (Saul Bellow, Philip Roth, Frank Conroy)	295
14. A New Life (Bernard Malamud)	322
15. On the Parapet (Norman Mailer)	344
16. Edge City (Ken Kesey)	372
CONCLUSION	393
Recognitions (William Gaddis)	
Fragments and Fantasies (Donald Barthelme, Richard Brautigan)	
The Wide Wings of the Language	

CONTENTS

APPENDICES	421
NOTES	447
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	451
INDEX	457