## Contents

Acknowledgments		ix
Preface	xi	

- I The Destruction of Knowledge in the Prescientific Literary Imagination 1
  - 1 The Emersonian Myth of Knowledge in the New World 5
  - 2 Walt Whitman and the World Beyond Rationalism 16
  - 3 Herman Melville and the Failure of Higher Truth 31
  - 4 Emily Dickinson and the Destruction of the Language of Knowledge 51
- II Science and the Knowledge of Knowing 65
  - 5 Scientists and Their Knowledge 69
  - 6 Science and the Epistemologists 76
- III Realisms in a Relativistic World 101
  - 7 Literary and Philosophical Realisms: Uncertain Paths Toward Certainty 105
  - 8 Stephen Crane and Robert Frost: Nonreflexive Perception and Dehumanized Universe 121
- IV The Revolution in Visual Arts 145
  - 9 The Artistic Process and the Wider Event 157

## viii Contents

- V The American Writer in the Age of Epistemology 175
  - 10 Gertrude Stein and the Splendid Century 179
  - 11 Ezra Pound and Ernest Hemingway: The Discipline of Destruction 208
  - 12 Conrad Aiken and Wallace Stevens: The Mind Watches the Mind Hunting the Real 231
  - 13 William Carlos Williams: Thinking a World Without Thought 270
  - 14 John Dos Passos: Actuality Montage (the Real Event and the Speech of the People) 311

Notes 353 Bibliography 372 Index 383