THE CRITICAL PULSE

THIRTY-SIX CREDOS
BY CONTEMPORARY CRITICS

Mark Bauerlein | Lauren Berlant
Michael Bérubé | Marc Bousquet
Morris Dickstein | Rita Felski | Diana Fuss
Judith Jack Halberstam | Amitava Kumar
Lisa Lowe | Mark McGurl
Toril Moi | Cary Nelson | Andrew Ross
Ken Warren and twenty-one
other critics

2/

EDITED BY JEFFREY J. WILLIAMS

& HEATHER STEFFEN

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

ix

Introduction: Criticism in a Difficult Time

3

A CRITIC'S PROGRESS

- 1 | The Case for Scholarly Reporting
- 2 | Declarations of Independence
- 3 | On Critique and Inheritance
 - 4 | What I Believe and Why VINCENT B. LEITCH 33
 - 5 | Hearing Losses and Gains CRAIG WOMACK 42
 - 6 | Long Island Intellectual

ACADEMIC LABOR

7 | We Work
MARC BOUSQUET 59

- 8 | What Is Criticism on Academic Labor For?
- 9 | "All Things Visible and Invisible": Believing in Higher Education
 - 10 | Against Heroism
 JOHN CONLEY 82
 - 11 | Pack Consciousness HEATHER STEFFEN 87

DECLARATIONS OF POLITICS

- 12 | Activism and Curriculum
 PAUL LAUTER 95
- 13 | Revolutionary Consciousness
 - 14 | Geopolitical Translators
 - 15 | Critical Credo
 - 16 | This I Believed
 MICHAEL BÉRUBÉ 121
- 17 | "Hope Dies Last": Cultural Studies and Studs Terkel

PEDAGOGICAL MOMENTS

- 18 | Credo of a Teacher GERALD GRAFF 137
- 19 | Of Credos and Credibility
 WILLIAM GERMANO 140
 - 20 | Teaching Friction
 ANN PELLEGRINI 146
 - 21 | Coerced Confessions
 BRUCE ROBBINS 151
 - 22 | On Race and Literature KENNETH WARREN 157
 - 23 | Teaching Theory
- 24 | Affect Is the New Trauma

THE DEFENSE OF LITERATURE

- 25 | Access to the Universal: Language, Literature, and the Humanities
- 26 | Wrestling with the Angel: A Modest Critical Credo

MORRIS DICKSTEIN 188

- 27 | Everyday Aesthetics
 - 28 | Criticism Is Vital DAVID R. SHUMWAY 202
 - 29 | Critical Credo
 MARK BAUERLEIN 208
- 30 | Why I'm Still Writing Women's Literary History

NEW TURNS

31 | Without Evidence STEPHEN BURT 229

32 | All There Is to Use

33 | Open
KATHLEEN FITZPATRICK 245

34 | Timing
MARK MCGURL 252

35 | The Politics of Small Problems Frances Negrón-Muntaner 257

36 | The Power of Unknowing
Judith Jack Halberstam 264

List of Contributors