

Contents

Preface	ix
PART ONE <i>The Problem: The Limits and Capacities of Critical Theory</i>	1
I The Vanity of Theory and Its Value	3
II Preliminary Questions and Suggested Answers	9
III The Critic as Person and Persona	38
PART TWO <i>The Humanistic Theoretical Tradition</i>	65
IV The Deceptive Opposition Between Mimetic and Expressive Theories	67
V Form and the Humanistic Aesthetic	98
VI Fiction, History, and Empirical Reality: The Hourglass and the Sands of Time	149
PART THREE <i>A Systematic Extension</i>	177
VII The Aesthetic as the Anthropological: The Breath of the Word and the Weight of the World	179
VIII Poetics Reconstructed: The Presence of the Poem	207
Index	247