Death and Representation



Edited by Sarah Webster Goodwin and Elisabeth Bronfen

The Johns Hopkins University Press Baltimore and London

Contents

Preface vii

Introduction Elisabeth Bronfen and Sarah Webster Goodwin 3

I Reading Death: Sign, Psyche, Text

\ Touching Death Ernst van Alphen 29

A Valediction For Bidding Mourning: Death and the Narratee in Brontë's Villette Garrett Stewart 51

Lacan, the Death Drive, and the Dream of the Burning Child Ellie Ragland 80

Risky Resemblances: On Repetition, Mourning, and Representation Elisabeth Bronfen 103

II Death and Gender

∨ Painting the Dead: Portraiture and Necrophilia in Victorian Art and Poetry Carol Christ 133

Romanticism and the Ghost of Prostitution: Freud, Maria, and "Alice Fell" Sarah Webster
Goodwin 152

Writing as Voodoo: Sorcery, Hysteria, and

Art Regina Barreca 174

Women in the Forbidden Zone: War, Women, and Death Margaret R. Higonnet 192

III History, Power, Ideology

Euripides' Alcestis: How to Die a Normal Death in Greek Tragedy Charles Segal 213

Beheadings Regina Janes 242

"Who Kills Whores?" "I Do," Says Jack: Race and Gender in Victorian London Sander L.

Gilman 263

Representing Sati: Continuities and
Discontinuities Rajeswari Sunder Rajan 285

Afterword Walter Benjamin and the Crisis of Representation: Multiplicity, Meaning, and Athematic Death Ronald Schleifer 312

Notes on Contributors 335