

# CONTENTS

<i>Series editor's preface</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
What is the Sublime?	1
The Sublime Has a History	5
The Sublime is Now	13
Note on Texts and Approaches	14
<b>1 Before (and After) Longinus</b>	<b>17</b>
Ecstasy and Instruction	17
Rhetoric and Nobility	22
God, Nature, and the Sublime	25
Rhetoric and Revelation	28
Gender and Excess	34
Sublime Conflict	37
Conclusions	40
<b>2 Early Modern Sublimity</b>	<b>41</b>
Spenser, Marlowe, and Shakespeare:	
Sublime Authorities	41
Milton: The Republican Sublime	45
Burnet and Dennis: Nature and Religion	48
Addison: On Description	54
Shaftesbury: Embracing the Ideal	57
Akenside: Descanting the Sublime	60
Baillie: Doing Things With Words	62
Conclusions	66
<b>3 Burke: <i>A Philosophical Enquiry</i></b>	<b>67</b>
Words, Things, and Feelings	67
Pleasure and Pain	73

Engendering the Sublime and the Beautiful	76
<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>	84
Conclusions	92
<b>4 Kant: The 'Analytic of the Sublime'</b>	<b>93</b>
The Critiques of Pure and Practical Reason	94
The Critique of Aesthetic Judgement	97
The 'Analytic of the Sublime'	99
The Ethics of the Sublime	106
The Politics of the Sublime	108
The Art of the Sublime	111
Conclusions	114
<b>5 The Romantic Sublime</b>	<b>116</b>
German Idealism	116
Coleridge After Kant	119
Wordsworth: Staging the Sublime	125
Feminine Difference	134
Conclusions	143
<b>6 Beyond Romanticism</b>	<b>145</b>
Late Sublimity	145
Schopenhauer and Eliot: Voiding the Subject	145
Marx and Gissing: Capitalising the Sublime	150
Nietzsche and Lawrence: Sublime Malice	154
Freud and Woolf: Moments of Being	159
Conclusions	165
<b>7 The Sublime is Now: Derrida, Deleuze, Lyotard</b>	<b>167</b>
Return to Kant	167
Derrida: <i>The Truth in Painting</i>	171
Deleuze: Exceeding Kant	175
Newman and Lyotard: <i>The Postmodern Sublime</i>	179
'The Sign of History'	183
The Return of Terror	187
Conclusions	188

<b>8 From the Sublime to the Ridiculous:</b>	
<b>Lacan and Žižek</b>	<b>190</b>
Lacan: Sublimity and Sublimation	191
Žižek: <i>The Sublime Object of Ideology</i>	196
The Art of the Ridiculous Sublime	200
Towards the Fragile Absolute	203
Conclusions	206
<b>Afterword</b>	<b>208</b>
Return to Beauty	208
 <i>Glossary</i>	 215
<i>Bibliography</i>	219
<i>Index</i>	232