Contents

	Acknowledgments	page viii
	Introduction: why beauty?	1
1	Literary aesthetics: beauty, the brain, and Mrs. Dalloway	, 19
2	The idiosyncrasy of beauty: aesthetic universals and the diversity of taste	46
3	Unspoken beauty: problems and possibilities of absence	76
4	Aesthetic response revisited: quandaries about beauty and sublimity	107
5	My Othello problem: prestige status, evaluation, and aesthetic response	162
6	What is aesthetic argument?	178
7	Art and beauty	215
	Afterword: a brief recapitulation, with a coda on anti-aesthetic art	245
	Works cited Index	257 277