

CONTENTS

PREFACE / vii

1. The Other Modernism: Futurism and Its Contradictions / 1

Historical Roots / 3

Literary Origins / 7

The Futurist Fiction of Power / 16

Methodological Questions / 20

2. The Rhetoric of Gender in the Manifestos / 29

Barricades / 31

The Text as a Locus of Violence / 36

The Futurist Mythopoeia / 41

3. The Superman and the Abject: *Mafarka le futuriste* / 55

The Rhetoric of Abjection / 56

Failing Dikes / 59

Total Art / 73

4. The Heart with Watertight Compartments and the Travel-size Woman: Futurist Strategies in Love and War / 79

Grim Pictures of the Home Front / 81

Sour Grapes / 85

Cooking with Women / 89

Bellicose Sex and Sexy War / 99

5. The Hero's War and the Heroine's Wounds: *Un ventre di donna* / 105*A Prescription of Courage and Truth* / 112*The Surgical Novel* / 114*The Wombs of Other Women* / 116*Echoes in the Master's House* / 117*The Scarred Womb* / 122

6. Transformations in the Futurist Mythopoeia / 125

Resorbing the Rejected / 126*From Political Activism to Aesthetic Escapism* / 130*Tactilism and Transformism* / 133*Art as Salutory Distraction and Cosmetic Compensation* / 135*Recycling the Past* / 137*Pathetic Fallacy in the Technological Mythopoeia* / 140*Fashioning a Fascist Discourse* / 143*Realignments in the Mythopoeia of War* / 145*The Ultimate Transformation: Art as Transubstantiation* / 155

Afterword: The Rhetoric of Violence and the Violence of Rhetoric / 163

NOTES / 165

INDEX / 205