The Janus Face of the German Avant-Garde

From Expressionism toward Postmodernism

RAINER RUMOLD

Northwestern University Press
Evanston
Illinois
Contents

Acknowledgments, vii
Introduction, ix

Part One. The Historical Avant-Garde and Literary Crisis

1 Expressionism: The Janus-Faced Agon, 3
2 The Dadaist Anti-Art Event in Zurich and Berlin, or The Return of the Literary Text, 38

Part Two. The Crisis of the Avant-Garde in Political Exile

3 From Weimar Culture to Political Exile: Two Phases/Faces of the Crisis of the Avant-Garde, 59
4 The Self-Effacement of the Avant-Garde Author, or The Metamorphosis of Surrealist Myth into Action: Carl Einstein and the Anarchist Movement during the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1937, 91
5 The “Image Sphere” versus Metaphor: Walter Benjamin Debating Expressionism—the Reconstruction of a Critical Constellation from Surrealism to Film, 1925–1937, 110
6 The Avant-Garde against Itself: George Grosz and Bertolt Brecht from Postexpressionist Berlin to the American Exile and the Postwar Cold War Aftermath, 137

Part Three. The Avant-Garde at a Standstill

7 Gottfried Benn and Nietzsche, 1937–1938: The Aporia of Writing History in “Wolf’s Tavern,” 153