Simplicity and Complexity
Pondering Literature, Science, and Painting

Floyd Merrell

Ann Arbor

The University of Michigan Press
Contents

List of Figures xiv

Introduction: A Silent but Ubiquitous Third 1

PART 1

1 • On Things That Go Awry 21

2 • How/Why Is Simplicity Complex and Complexity Simple? 49

3 • When Space Breaks Down 79

PART 2

4 • Veering off on a Tangent 97

5 • When Things Get out of Line 110

6 • Rending and Mending without Ending 139

PART 3

7 • Infinite in All Directions? 173

8 • Patterns That Connect 186

9 • Fissures, Fractures, Gaps, and Continuity 221

PART 4

10 • The Vengeful Onslaught of Sludge 241

11 • Flying off in All Directions 262

12 • Simplicity and Complexity Revisited 293

Notes 317

References 341

Index 361