The Aesthetics of the Total Artwork

On Borders and Fragments

Edited by

ANKE FINGER and DANIELLE FOLLETT

The Johns Hopkins University Press

Baltimore
CONTENTS

Acknowledgments v

CHAPTER 1 Dynamiting the Gesamtkunstwerk: An Introduction to the Aesthetics of the Total Artwork 1
Danielle Follett and Anke Finger

PART I AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS: FRAGMENT, UNITY, CHANCE, IDEA

CHAPTER 2 Variations on Totality: Romanticism and the Total Work of Art 29
Olivier Schéfer

CHAPTER 3 Tendency, Disintegration, Decay: Stages of the Aesthetics of the Fragment from Friedrich Schlegel to Thomas Bernhard 52
Justus Fetscher

CHAPTER 4 “The Completed Work Is a Rejection of Disintegration and Destruction”: A Plea for Aesthetic Unity 74
Jürgen Söring

CHAPTER 5 Tout et N’importe Quoi: The Total Artwork and the Aesthetics of Chance 86
Danielle Follett

CHAPTER 6 Idea/Imagination/Dialogue: The Total Artwork and Conceptual Art 110
Anke Finger

CHAPTER 7 “And a Loose Community Assembles”: An Interview with Molly Nesbit 128
Danielle Follett

What Is a Station? 128
Molly Nesbit, Hans-Ulrich Obrist, and Rirkrit Tiravanija

CHAPTER 8 Form and Reform: An Interview with Mark Alizart 142
Danielle Follett
PART II ON DEFINING AND DEFYING BORDERS: GENRES AND DISCIPLINES

CHAPTER 9 The Gesamtkunstwerk and Interactive Multimedia
Randall Packer

CHAPTER 10 Invisible Wagner
Juliet Koss

CHAPTER 11 Music as Imminent Gesamtkunstwerk: Absolute Music, Synesthesia, and The Lucky Hand
Simon Shaw-Miller

CHAPTER 12 Avant-Garde Theater as Total Artwork? Media-Theoretical Reflections on the Historical Development of Performing Art Forms
Christiane Heibach

CHAPTER 13 The Drawing as Total Artwork? Image Totality in Carl Einstein and Paul Klee
Reto Sorg

CHAPTER 14 Total Artwork vs. Revolution: Art, Politics, and Temporalities in the Expressionist Architectural Utopias and the Merzbau
Maria Stavrinaki

CHAPTER 15 The Sorcerer’s Apprentice: László Moholy-Nagy and His Light Prop for an Electrical Stage
Joyce Tsai

CHAPTER 16 Polyglot Poetry: Multilingualism and the Aesthetics of the Gesamtkunstwerk
Rainer Guldin

CHAPTER 17 Singin’ in the Marxist Rain
Robert Kaufman

CHAPTER 18 Gesamtkunstwerk and Formelkomposition: The Formal Principles of the Multiple Work-Totality in Karlheinz Stockhausen’s Light
Ivanka Stoianova

Notes
List of Contributors
Index