

## *Contents*

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
Introduction	i
1 The picturesque aesthetic and the natural art of song	14
2 Masterpiece theatres: art as spectacle in William Thackeray and Charlotte Brontë	50
3 George Eliot's hierarchy of representation	106
4 Art works: Thomas Hardy and the labor of creation	149
Coda Aestheticism: the erasure of the real	184
<i>Notes</i>	196
<i>Bibliography</i>	210
<i>Index</i>	227