This volume offers readers a unique and comprehensive overview of theoretical perspectives on “the sublime,” the singular aesthetic response elicited by phenomena that move viewers by transcending and overwhelming them. The book consists of an editor’s introduction and fifteen chapters written from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Part One examines philosophical approaches advanced historically to account for the phenomenon, beginning with Longinus; moving through eighteenth- and nineteenth-century writers in Britain, France, and Germany; and concluding with developments in contemporary continental philosophy. Part Two explores the sublime with respect to particular disciplines and areas of study, viz., Dutch literature, early modern America, the environment, religion, British Romanticism, the fine arts, and architecture. Each chapter both is accessible for nonspecialists and offers an original contribution to its respective field of inquiry.

Timothy M. Costelloe is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the College of William & Mary. He is the author of Aesthetics and Morals in the Philosophy of David Hume (2008) and The British Aesthetic Tradition: From Shaftesbury to Wittgenstein (Cambridge, forthcoming).
The Sublime

*From Antiquity to the Present*

Edited by

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For Sarah and Andrew
Contents

List of Illustrations  ix
Contributors xi
Acknowledgments xiii

The Sublime: A Short Introduction to a Long History  1
Timothy M. Costelloe

PART ONE. PHILLOSOPHICAL HISTORY OF THE SUBLIME

1 Longinus and the Ancient Sublime  11
Malcolm Heath

2 ...And the Beautiful? Revisiting Edmund Burke's “Double Aesthetics”  24
Rodolphe Gasché

3 The Moral Source of the Kantian Sublime  37
Melissa McBay Merritt

4 Imagination and Internal Sense: The Sublime in Shaftesbury, Reid, Addison, and Reynolds  50
Timothy M. Costelloe

5 The Associative Sublime: Gerard, Kames, Alison, and Stewart  64
Rachel Zuckert

6 The “Prehistory” of the Sublime in Early Modern France: An Interdisciplinary Perspective  77
Éva Madeleine Martin

7 The German Sublime After Kant  102
Paul Guyer

8 The Postmodern Sublime: Presentation and Its Limits  118
David B. Johnson

PART TWO. DISCIPLINARY AND OTHER PERSPECTIVES

9 The “Subtler” Sublime in Modern Dutch Aesthetics  135
John R. J. Eyck

10 The First American Sublime  147
Chandos Michael Brown
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Environmental Sublime</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Emily Brady</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Religion and the Sublime</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Andrew Chignell and Matthew C. Halteeman</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The British Romantic Sublime</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Adam Potkay</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The Sublime and the Fine Arts</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Theodore Gracyk</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Architecture and the Sublime</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Richard A. Etlin</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bibliography**  

**Index**
# List of Illustrations

3.1 Modes of the sublime  
6.1 Nicolas Poussin, *L’hiver, or Le déluge* (Winter, or *The Flood*)  

6.2 Louis Le Nain, *Famille de paysans dans un intérieur* (Peasant Family in an Interior)  

6.3 Georges de La Tour, *La Madeleine à la veilleuse* (*The Magdalen with the Nightlight*)  

6.4 Lubin Baugin, *Le dessert aux gaufrettes* (Still Life with Wafers)  

6.5 Charles Le Brun, *Surprise et admiration* (Admiration and Astonishment)  

6.6 Charles Poerson, *Louis XIV en Jupiter, vainqueur de la Fronde* (Louis XIV as Jupiter, Conqueror of the Fronde)  

6.7 Charles Le Brun, *La Franche-Comté conquise pour la seconde fois* (The Second Conquest of the Franche-Comté)  

6.8 Jeremias Wachsmuth (after Gottfried Eichler the Younger), *Magnificientia*  

6.9 Charles Le Brun, *Entrée d’Alexandre dans Babylone* (Entrance of Alexander into Babylon), detail  

6.10 Jean Audran, *Ravissement* (Rapture), after Charles Le Brun’s drawing of the same title  

6.11 Michel Natalis, *Le ravissement de saint Paul* (*The Ecstasy of Saint Paul*), after Nicolas Poussin’s painting of the same title, detail  

6.12 Nicolas Poussin, *L’inspiration du poète* (Influence of the Poet), detail  

6.13 Philippe de Champaigne, *Saint Augustine*  

6.14 Philippe de Champaigne, *Portrait de mère Agnès Arnauld et de soeur Catherine de Sainte-Suzanne* (Portrait of Mother Agnès Arnauld and Sister Catherine de Sainte-Suzanne), also known as *Ex-voto*  

10.1 Frederick Edwin Church, *The Natural Bridge, Virginia*  

10.2 Great Falls of the Potomac, drawn by G. Beck, Philadelphia; engraved by J. Cartwright  

10.3 Thomas Cole, *View of the Round-Top in the Catskill Mountains* (*Sunny Morning on the Hudson*)  

10.4 Thomas Cole, *View of the Mountain Pass Called the Notch of the White Mountains* (*Crawford Notch*)
List of Illustrations

10.5  A Map of Lewis and Clark's Track, across the Western Portion of North America from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean: By Order of the Executive of the United States in 1804, 5 & 6 / Copied by Samuel Lewis from the Original Drawing of Wm. Clark; Saml. Harrison, fct. 165

10.6  Thomas Cole, The Course of Empire: Destruction 167

10.7  Thomas Cole, The Course of Empire: Desolation 168

10.8  Plate XXVI, Marietta Works, in Squier and Davis, Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley 169

12.1  Lucas Cranach the Elder, The Crucifixion with the Converted Centurion 190

12.2  Unknown, Doukhobors Looking for Christ in Canada in Winter 196

12.3  Sarah-Jane Lynagh, Mute 200

15.1  Étienne-Louis Boullée, Cenotaph to Sir Isaac Newton (project) 231

15.2  Étienne-Louis Boullée, Metropolitan Church (project) 235

15.3  Stuccoed dome (lost), Domus Aurea (Golden House), Rome 242

15.4  Pantheon, Rome 244

15.5  Pantheon, Rome, detail of attic zone with alteration of 1746–1748 and partial restoration of the original in 1929–1934 245

15.6  Mausoleum of Diocletian, split 248

15.7  Orthodox Baptistery, Ravenna 249

15.8  Mausoleum of Theodoric, Ravenna 250

15.9  Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (Istanbul) 252

15.10  Giulio Romano, Hall of Giants, Palazzo del Te, Mantua 255

15.11  Giulio Romano, Hall of Giants, Palazzo del Te, Mantua 256

15.12  Philibert Delorme, chapel, Château d'Anet, dome 259

15.13  Philibert Delorme, chapel, Château d’Anet, floor 260
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xii

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