Samuel Beckett is one of the most important figures in the history of Irish literature and he continues to influence successive generations of writers. In *Beckett and Contemporary Irish Writing*, Stephen Watt searches for the “Beckettian” impulse in Irish literature by tracing the Nobel Prize winner’s legacy through a rich selection of contemporary novelists, poets, and dramatists. Watt examines leading figures such as Paul Muldoon, Brian Friel, Marina Carr, and Bernard MacLaverty, and shows how Beckett’s presence, whether openly acknowledged or unstated, is always thoroughly pervasive. Moving on to an exploration of Beckett’s role in the twenty-first century, the study discusses ways in which this legacy can be reshaped to deal with current concerns that extend beyond literature. Encouraging us to think about Beckett’s work and status in new ways, this landmark study will be required reading for scholars and students of Beckett and Irish studies.

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Contents

List of illustrations vii
Acknowledgments vii

Introduction Beckett, our contemporary 1
Chapter 1 Beckett and the “Beckettian” 14
Chapter 2 The Northern Ireland “Troubles” Play and Brian Friel’s Beckettian turn 61
Chapter 3 Bernard MacLaverty: The “Troubles,” late modernism, and the Beckettian 92
Chapter 4 “Getting round” Beckett: Derek Mahon and Paul Muldoon 125
Chapter 5 Specters of Beckett: Marina Carr and the “other” Sam 166
Coda On retrofitting: Samuel Beckett, tourist attraction 192

Bibliography 210
Index 221
Illustrations

Figure 1  Mary Farl Powers, *Emblements* (1981). Reprinted by permission of the Estate of Mary Farl Powers. Source: Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University.  page 151

Figure 2  Cover, Paul Muldoon, *The Annals of Chile* (1994). Reprinted by permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux  159

Figure 3  Irish Nobel Laureates in Literature (2004). Reprinted by permission of Sweden Post Stamps  199
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