Ezra Pound was deeply engaged with the avant-garde art scene in London and Paris during the early twentieth century. The effects of this engagement were not restricted to experiments in poetic form, however; they directly shaped Pound’s social and political thought. In this book Rebecca Beasley tracks Pound’s education in visual culture in chapters that explore his early poetry in the context of American aestheticism and middle-class education; imagism, anarchism and post-impressionist painting; vorticism and anti-democracy in early drafts of *The Cantos*; dadaist conceptual art, internationalism and Pound’s turn to Italian fascism. In establishing a critical vocabulary profoundly indebted to the visual arts, Pound laid the basis for a literary modernism that is, paradoxically, a visual culture. Drawing on unpublished archive materials and little known magazine contributions, this study makes an important contribution to our understanding of Pound’s intellectual development and the relationship between modernist literature and the visual arts.

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Ezra Pound and the Visual Culture of Modernism

Rebecca Beasley
For my parents, in gratitude and with love.
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1 Mary Cassatt, *The Sun Bath* (1901). Photo: Courtesy of the Mary Cassatt Catalogue Raisonné Committee, Adelyn Breeskin Archive. page 31


3 Jacob Epstein, *Figure in Flenite* (1913). Photo: Minneapolis Institute of Arts. © Tate, London, 2006. 95


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Abbreviations

ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

DPP, Beinecke  D. D. Paige Papers (YCAL MSS 181), Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

EPC, HRHRC  Ezra Pound Collection, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin

EPP, Beinecke  Ezra Pound Papers (YCAL MSS 43), Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

LBP, British Library  Laurence Binyon Papers, Loan 103, British Library

WORKS BY EZRA POUND

ABCE  ABC of Economics (London: Faber and Faber, 1933)

ABCR  ABC of Reading (London: Routledge, 1934)

AQFTY  A Quinzaine for This Yule (London: Mathews, 1908)

C  Canzoni of Ezra Pound (London: Mathews, 1911)


E  Exultations of Ezra Pound (London: Mathews, 1909)


GC  Sonnets and Ballate of Guido Cavalcanti (Boston: Small, Maynard, 1912)
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<td>GK</td>
<td>Guide to Kulchur (London: Faber and Faber, 1938)</td>
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<td>HSM</td>
<td>Hugh Selwyn Mauberley (London: Ovid Press, 1920)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTR</td>
<td>How to Read (London: Harmsworth, 1931)</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>Ripostes of Ezra Pound (London: Swift, 1912)</td>
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Abbreviations


SR  The Spirit of Romance (London: Dent, 1910)

Citations of The Cantos, 4th edn (London: Faber and Faber, 1987) are inserted parenthetically after the quotation or reference in the form of ‘canto number: page number(s)’.