THE THEORY OF THE SUBLIME FROM LONGINUS TO KANT

In this book, Robert Doran offers the first in-depth treatment of the major theories of the sublime, from the ancient Greek treatise *On the Sublime* (attributed to “Longinus”), and its reception in early modern literary theory, to the philosophical accounts of Burke and Kant. Doran explains how and why the sublime became a key concept of modern thought and shows how the various theories of sublimity are united by a common structure – the paradoxical experience of being at once overwhelmed and exalted – and a common concern: the preservation of a notion of transcendence in the face of the secularization of modern culture. Combining intellectual history with literary theory and philosophical analysis, his book provides a new, searching, and multilayered account of a concept that continues to stimulate thought about our responses to art, nature, and human events.

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THE THEORY OF THE SUBLIME
FROM LONGINUS TO KANT

ROBERT DORAN

University of Rochester
For my father:

Francis Yates Doran (1918–2010)
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Acknowledgments

This book would not have seen the light of day without the guidance, encouragement, and insights of Hayden White and Jean Bessière. Although it bears little resemblance to the doctoral thesis they supervised many years ago, this book is nevertheless a testament to their scholarly example and deep understanding of literary theory, philosophy, and intellectual history. I greatly appreciate their unwavering support and friendship over the years.

René Girard has been an important interlocutor for this project, as well as a great teacher and friend. My approach to philosophy was shaped in large part by Richard Rorty’s seminars at Stanford University and discussions in his office. Jean-Pierre Dupuy’s courses on philosophy at Stanford and his research group at the CREA, Ecole Polytechnique, were an inspiration. I greatly benefited from Jacques Derrida’s seminars at the EHESS – part of what would become the Burke chapter was given as an oral presentation in his 1999–2000 seminar – as well as from a conversation with him about the sublime during a ride from the San Jose airport. Annual meetings in a Parisian café with Samuel Weber, whom I met as a participant in his Paris Program in Critical Theory, constantly challenged me to rethink my concepts and methods. Conversations with Karl Heinz Bohrer about “suddenness” helped me to understand the temporal dimension of sublimity. Numerous exchanges with Marcel Hénaff have broadened my knowledge of philosophy and anthropology.

Paul Crowther read the entire manuscript, offering copious comments and suggestions that helped me to clarify my overall conception and presentation. His scholarship on Kant, especially his pioneering The Kantian Sublime: From Morality to Art, has been a constant inspiration. I am especially indebted to Stephen Halliwell, whose thorough reading of the Longinus material led to vital improvements. Halliwell’s magisterial The Aesthetics of Mimesis: Ancient Texts and Modern Problems was a model for this project; for it showed how an idea originating in ancient thought
could be brought into fruitful dialogue with modern conceptions and how a diverse and contested concept like mimesis could be treated in a unified way. Marsh McCall and David Glidden also provided stimulating commentary on the Longinus material. I am very grateful to Allen Wood, who read an early version of the Kant chapters with a sharp critical eye. Many thanks to Pierre Keller, Samantha Matherne, Sandra Shapshay, and Ralf Meerbote, all of whom offered valuable advice on aspects of the Kant material. Larry F. Norman gave me crucial suggestions on the Boileau chapter. David Quint’s comments on the Boileau and Dennis chapters were as meticulous as they were enlightening. John Briggs generously shared his thoughts on the chapters on Dennis and Burke.

I owe the idea for writing a book on the sublime to Massimo Lollini, who, knowing my philosophical interests, urged me to take a seminar he was teaching on “Vico and the Settecento.” Lollini’s wonderful book, Le muse, le maschere e il sublime: G. B. Vico e la poesia nell’età della “Ragione spiegata,” was an early inspiration.

I would like to thank the Office of the Provost at the University of Rochester for a subvention that covered the permissions for the image that appears on the cover. Many thanks to my colleagues at the University of Rochester for their support, encouragement, and friendship.

Hilary Gaskin, my editor at Cambridge University Press, has been wonderfully patient and supportive. I am grateful for her kind attention and guidance, as well as for the invaluable insights and suggestions provided by the two anonymous readers of the manuscript. I must also thank Beatrice Rehl, who showed initial interest in the project before she was promoted to Director of Humanities Publishing at Cambridge University Press.

Finally, I do not know how to express my gratitude to Sabine, the mother of our twin boys Max and Adrian, who made heroic efforts to keep the project on track amid the challenges of raising two very energetic Jungs.

My father, Francis Yates Doran (1918–2010), passed away during the writing of this book. Only when composing the eulogy for his funeral service did I realize how much he inspired this project. No one better understood the sublime in music, as when he entered an enraptured state while listening to Luciano Pavarotti’s rendition of Puccini’s “Nessun dorma” or Arthur Rubinstein’s RCA recording of Chopin’s Ballade in g minor. It is to his memory that this book is dedicated.
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