

## *Contents*

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>A note on references and abbreviations</i>	xii
1 Introduction	1
2 Shakespeare and Sidney. Two worlds: the brazen and the golden	6
3 Shakespeare and Ovid. 'What strained touches rhetoric can lend': poetry metamorphosed in <i>Venus and Adonis</i> and the Sonnets	21
4 'In scorn of nature, art gave lifeless life': exposing art's sterility. <i>The Rape of Lucrece</i> , <i>The Winter's Tale</i> and <i>The Tempest</i>	59
5 'O'er-wrested seeming': dramatic illusion and the repudiation of mimesis. <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> , <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> and <i>Hamlet</i>	91
6 'Thy registers and thee I both defy': history challenged. <i>Richard III</i> , <i>Henry VIII</i> , <i>Henry V</i> and <i>Richard II</i>	127
7 <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> as 'A Defence of Drama'	154
<i>Notes</i>	191
<i>Bibliography</i>	209
<i>Index</i>	216