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978-0-521-87040-5 - Ezra Pound and the Visual Culture of Modernism

Rebecca Beasley

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OF MODERNISM

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 Drawing on unpublished archive materials and little known magazine contributions, this study makes an important contribution to our understanding of Pound's intellectual development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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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521870405

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-87040-5 hardback

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For my parents, in gratitude and with love.

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Acknowledgments

It is a great pleasure to be able to thank the many friends and colleagues who contributed to the writing of this book. The guidance of Ian F. A. Bell, Michael André Bernstein, Maud Ellmann, Tony Tanner, Clive Wilmer and Alex Zwerdling fundamentally shaped the work in its early stages, and Tim Armstrong, Nicola Bown, Katharine Craik, Markman Ellis, Anna Snaith and Tory Young generously commented on later versions of chapters. I have also benefited from the advice of Ann Banfield, Bernard Beatty, Joe Brooker, Peter Brooker, Gloria Carnivali, Stephen Clucas, Patricia Cockram, Jason Edwards, Tamara Follini, Peter Forshaw, Hilary Fraser, Simon Grimble, Thom Gunn, Nicholas Harrison, Alastair Horne, Anne Janowitz, Shulamith Deborah Kang, Matthew Kratter, Sally Ledger, Cheryl Leibold, Catherine Maxwell, David Peters Corbett, Elizabeth Pound, Omar Pound, Jeremy Prynne, John Rathmell, Laura Salisbury, Morag Shiach, Matthew Shinn, Noel Stock, Charles Tung, Dorothy Wang, Evelyn Welch, Peter White, Sue Wiseman and Richard Wollheim. I am grateful to David Ayers, John Beck, Ron Bush, Rod Edmond, Andrzej Gasiorek, Richard Gooder and John Schad for the opportunity to present and discuss parts of this work, and to the staff and students of the School of English and Humanities at Birkbeck for providing such an inspiring atmosphere in which to teach and research.

The research for this book was greatly facilitated by the staff of Cambridge University Library, the British Library, the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library at Yale and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas, Austin. For assistance in obtaining illustrations, I am indebted to Maria Theresa Brunner of the Kunstmuseum Basel, DeAnn M. Dankowski of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Helen D'Monte representing the Wyndham Lewis Memorial Trust, Sarah Fahmy of Tate, London, Daniela Ferrari of the Museion Bolzano, Holly Frisbee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, James Lafferty-Furphy of the Hunterian

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Acknowledgments

Museum and Art Gallery, Naomi MacDonald of DACS, Magnus Malmros of the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, the Mary Cassatt Catalogue Raisonné Committee, Michael Scott of the Baltimore Museum of Art, Deborah Stultz of the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, Luisa Càle, Bernard Dew, Jon Elek, Gloria Peck, Andrew Penman, Mary de Rachewiltz and Alison Rutherford.

Grants and fellowships from the following organisations made the research, writing and revision of the book possible: the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Cambridge, Birkbeck College, University of London, the University of Liverpool and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center. At Cambridge University Press, I am grateful to Ray Ryan for his commitment to this project, Maartje Scheltens, Jayne Aldhouse, Jodie Barnes and Clive Unger-Hamilton for their work on the manuscript, and to the manuscript's readers.

Grateful acknowledgement is given to New Directions Publishing Corporation and Faber and Faber Ltd for permission to quote from the following copyrighted works of Ezra Pound: *ABC of Reading* (all rights reserved), *The Cantos* (copyright © 1934, 1937, 1940, 1948, 1956, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1966, and 1968 by Ezra Pound), *Collected Early Poems of Ezra Pound* (copyright © 1976 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Ezra Pound and Dorothy Shakespear* (copyright © 1976, 1984 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Pound/Ford* (copyright © 1971, 1972, 1973, 1982 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Pound/Joyce* (copyright © 1967 by Ezra Pound), *Pound/Lewis* (copyright © 1985 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Pound/The Little Review* (copyright © 1988 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Pound, Thayer, Watson and 'The Dial'* (copyright © 1994 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Ezra Pound and Music* (copyright © 1977 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Ezra Pound and the Visual Arts* (copyright © 1926, 1935, 1950, 1962, 1970, 1971, and 1980 by the Trustees of the Ezra Pound Literary Property Trust), *Gaudier Brzeska* (copyright © 1970 by Ezra Pound), *Guide to Kulchur* (copyright © 1970 by Ezra Pound). Quotations from previously unpublished works by Ezra Pound are copyright © 2007 by Mary de Rachewiltz and Omar S. Pound, and are used by permission of New Directions Publishing Corporation.

Earlier versions of chapters one, two and four appeared as 'Ezra Pound's Whistler', *American Literature*, 74 (2002), 485–516, 'Art as Propaganda for

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Literary Modernism', *New Formations*, 43 (2001), 117–29, and 'Dada's Place in *The Cantos*', *Paideuma*, 30 (2001), 39–64. I am grateful to the editors of these journals for their permission to reprint material here.

My greatest debt is to my family. To my parents, to Ben and Lisa, and to Markman: thank you.

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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

<i>ABCE</i>	<i>ABC of Economics</i> (London: Faber and Faber, 1933)
<i>ABCR</i>	<i>ABC of Reading</i> (London: Routledge, 1934)
<i>AQFTY</i>	<i>A Quinzaine for This Yule</i> (London: Mathews, 1908)
<i>C</i>	<i>Canzoni of Ezra Pound</i> (London: Mathews, 1911)
<i>CEP</i>	<i>Collected Early Poems of Ezra Pound</i> , ed. Michael John King (London: Faber and Faber, 1977)
<i>E</i>	<i>Exultations of Ezra Pound</i> (London: Mathews, 1909)
<i>EPM</i>	<i>Ezra Pound and Music: The Complete Criticism</i> , ed. R. Murray Schafer (New York: New Directions, 1977)
<i>EPVA</i>	<i>Ezra Pound and the Visual Arts</i> , ed. Harriet Zinnes (New York: New Directions, 1980)
<i>GB</i>	<i>Gaudier-Brzeska: A Memoir</i> (London: Lane, 1916)
<i>GC</i>	<i>Sonnets and Ballate of Guido Cavalcanti</i> (Boston: Small, Maynard, 1912)

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- GK* *Guide to Kulchur* (London: Faber and Faber, 1938)
- HSM* *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley* (London: Ovid Press, 1920)
- HTR* *How to Read* (London: Harmsworth, 1931)
- JIM* *Jefferson And/ Or Mussolini: L'Idée Statale: Fascism As I Have Seen It* (London: Nott, 1935)
- L* *The Letters of Ezra Pound: 1907–1941*, ed. D. D. Paige (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1950)
- L/DS* *Ezra Pound and Dorothy Shakespeare: Their Letters: 1909–14*, ed. Omar Pound and A. Walton Litz (New York: New Directions, 1984)
- L/FMF* *Pound/ Ford: The Story of a Literary Friendship*, ed. Brita Lindberg-Seyersted (New York: New Directions, 1982)
- L/JL* *Ezra Pound and James Laughlin: Selected Letters*, ed. David M. Gordon (New York: Norton, 1994)
- L/JQ* *The Selected Letters of Ezra Pound to John Quinn: 1915–1924*, ed. Timothy Materer (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1991)
- L/MA* *Pound/ 'The Little Review': The Letters of Ezra Pound to Margaret Anderson – The Little Review Correspondence*, ed. Thomas L. Scott and Melvin J. Friedman, with the assistance of Jackson R. Bryer (New York: New Directions, 1988)
- L/MC* *Ezra Pound and Margaret Cravens: A Tragic Friendship, 1910–1912*, ed. Omar Pound and Robert Spoo (Duke, NC: Duke University Press, 1988)
- L/TW* *Pound, Thayer, Watson and 'The Dial': A Story in Letters*, ed. Walter Sutton (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1994)
- L/WCW* *Pound/ Williams: Selected Letters of Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams*, ed. Hugh Witemeyer (New York: New Directions, 1996)
- MA* *Machine Art and Other Writings: The Lost Thought of the Italian Years*, ed. Maria Luisa Ardizzone (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1996)
- P* *Personæ: The Collected Poems of Ezra Pound* (New York: Boni & Liveright, 1926)
- R* *Ripostes of Ezra Pound* (London: Swift, 1912)

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- RSWWII ‘Ezra Pound Speaking’: *Radio Speeches of World War II*, ed.
Leonard W. Doob (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1978)
- 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)’.