

## Contents

Acknowledgments	7
Abbreviations	11
Introduction	13
Modernism and the Quest for Authenticity	17
Understanding Poems as Social Acts	21
The Body as a Source of Authenticity and Anxiety	26
Amy Lowell, William Carlos Williams, and the Canons of Modernism	31
1 Poetry and Materiality: The Flower as Modernist Trope	37
“nature is not all red in tooth and claw”: The Victorian Culture of Flowers	40
The Language and Eroticism of Flowers in the Poetry of Lowell, T. S. Eliot, and H.D.	44
“Steel Roses”: Flowers in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction	54
Modern(ist) Flower Discourses and the Power of the Performative	74
2 Authenticity, Presence, Voice: Modernist Formal Innovation and Early Twentieth-Century Expressive Culture	77
From the Expressive Culture Movement to Physical Culture	80
Spoken Art: Amy Lowell and S. S. Curry’s Theory of Expression	85
Poetry as Self-Expression? Authenticity, Presence, and Voice in Williams’s <i>Al Que Quiere!</i>	101
Authentic Expression and Natural Form	113

3	Borderline Modernism: Sensation, Expression, and the Unconscious	119
	Expression as Improvisation: The Performance of Immediacy in <i>Kora in Hell</i>	121
	Black Bodies, White Subjects: Sensation and Expression in <i>Borderline</i>	133
	Amy Lowell and the Senses of Modernism	146
4	Techniques of the Observer: Formal Experimentation in Williams's Voyeuristic Poetry	151
	Spectacles of Deviance: “To Elsie” and Turn-of-the-Century Visual Representations	152
	Observing the Observer: Williams's Self-Reflective Voyeurism	164
	“The supreme importance / of this nameless spectacle”: The Poet's Gaze and the Bodies of Others in <i>Spring and All</i>	171
	“Secret gardens of the self”: Diagnostic Encounters in the “Doctor Stories”	182
5	Pictures of the Floating World: Racial and Sexual Otherness in Lowell's Enclosed Garden	191
	The “Lacquer Prints”: Sex and the Floating World	195
	“When we have shut and barred the door”: The Poetics of the Enclosed Garden	203
	Lowell, Williams, and the Spectacle of the Other	213
	Coda	
	Rethinking Modernism(s), Revisiting the Harlem Renaissance	215
	Performing Authenticity: Modernism and the Material Body	218
	Rereading the Harlem Renaissance	223
	(Re)Turn to Presence: Modernist Poetry and Contemporary Theory	226
	Works Cited	231