

Contents

Introduction	1
1 Sublimation unto Death: The Aesthetic Search for Meaning in Cultural Crisis	17
2 Writing China: The Imaginary Body and Allegorical Wilderness	55
3 The Sublime and Gender	101
4 Desire and Pleasure in Revolutionary Cinema	123
5 The Sublime Subject of Practice	155
6 The Cultural Revolution: A Terrible Beauty Is Born	194
7 The Angels of History: The Fantastic, Schizophrenic, and Grotesque	229
Conclusion	263
<i>Notes</i>	271
<i>Character List</i>	287
<i>Bibliography</i>	293
<i>Index</i>	305

The Sublime Figure of History

Aesthetics and Politics in
Twentieth-Century China

