Contents

Preface	хi
Acknowledgments	xiii
A Note on Translations	xv
1. Introduction: Beyond the Aesthetics of Realism	1
2. The Aesthetics of Excess: The Novel as Fibroma	13
3. The Ethics of Androgyny: A Sexual Parable	28
4. Culture as Nature: An American Practice of Reading and Writing	45
5. Textual Epiphany: A Return to Bibliomancy	70
6. Conclusion: The Henri Rousseau of the Latin American Boom	85
Notes	119
Works Cited	141
Index	147
Illustrations	
Henri Rousseau, The Dream	89
Henri Rousseau, Walking in the Forest	99
Henri Rousseau, The Muse Inspiring the Poet	109
Henri Rousseau, The Sleeping Gypsy	III
Henri Rousseau A Carnival Evening	115