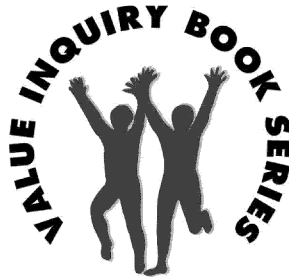


THE AESTHETICS OF RUINS



VIBS

Volume 159

Robert Ginsberg
Founding Editor

Peter A. Redpath
Executive Editor

Associate Editors

G. John M. Abbarno
Mary-Rose Barral
Gerhold K. Becker
Raymond Angelo Belliotti
Kenneth A. Bryson
C. Stephen Byrum
H. G. Callaway
Robert A. Delfino
Rem B. Edwards
William Gay
Dane R. Gordon
J. Everet Green
Heta Aleksandra Gylling
Matti Häyry
Steven V. Hicks
Richard T. Hull

Laura Duhan Kaplan
Joseph C. Kunkel
Vincent L. Luizzi
Alan Milchman
George David Miller
Jon Mills
Alan Rosenberg
Arleen L. F. Salles
John R. Shook
Eddy Souffrant
Tuija Takala
Oscar Vilarroya
Anne Waters
John R. Welch
Thomas F. Woods

THE AESTHETICS OF RUINS

Robert Ginsberg

illustrated by the author



Amsterdam - New York, NY 2004

Cover Design: Studio Pollmann

Cover Image: Robert Ginsberg

The paper on which this book is printed meets the requirements of “ISO 9706:1994, Information and documentation - Paper for documents - Requirements for permanence”.

ISBN: 90-420-1672-8

©Editions Rodopi B.V., Amsterdam - New York, NY 2004

Printed in the Netherlands

To Ellen,
my all,
my more than all



Pl. 1. Ellen S. Ginsberg and Robert Ginsberg, Altar, Sparta, Greece, 1985

CONTENTS



List of Illustrations		xi
	1. Photographic Plates	xi
	2. Figures	xiii
Foreword by Claire Richter Sherman		xv
Preface		xvii
Acknowledgments		xxi
ONE	The Ruin as Matter	1
TWO	The Ruin as Form	15
THREE	The Ruin as Function	33
FOUR	The Ruin as Incongruity	51
FIVE	The Ruin as Site	77
SIX	The Ruin as Symbol	107
SEVEN	The Ruin as Aesthetic Experience	155
EIGHT	Visit to a Ruin: St. Andrews	173
NINE	Building with Ruin	185
TEN	Nature as Ruin	201
ELEVEN	Sculpture and Other Visual Arts as Ruin	221
TWELVE	Cinema and Television as Ruin	237
THIRTEEN	Literature as Ruin	253
FOURTEEN	Philosophy as Ruin	261
FIFTEEN	The Terminology of Ruin	285

SIXTEEN	Theories of Ruin	315
SEVENTEEN	The Ruining Eye—and Other Senses	335
EIGHTEEN	Fragments of a Chapter on Ruin	355
	1. Religion	355
	2. Civilization	355
	3. Ruinations	356
	4. Battlefields	358
	5. Caesarean Section	358
	6. Archaeology	358
	7. Psychology of Ruins	359
	8. Nostalgia	362
	9. Time	363
	10. Ruins Put to Use	364
	11. People in the Ruins	369
	12. Ruinscape and the Picturesque	369
	13. Domestic Ruins	370
	14. A Ruin No Longer a Ruin?	372
	15. Disaster	372
	16. Future Ruins	375
	17. Funereal	375
	18. Minimalism	375
	19. Chance Ruins	376
	20. On-Site	378
	21. Walls	379
	22. Sun-Burst	381
	23. Ruining	381
	24. Sound and Light	382
	25. Ephemera	382
	26. Ruin Sound	382
	27. Ruin Music	383
	28. Pro-Verbial	383
	29. Language	384
	30. Enrichment	384
	31. Anecdotalage	384
	32. Grin and Bear It	385
	33. Added Verses Versus Adversity	385
	34. Museum of Ruins	386
	35. Ruinitis	386
	36. Obsession/Optsection	386

NINETEEN	Meditations on Humanity, Self, and the World as Ruins	387
	1. The Fall	387
	2. The Redemption	396
	3. Death	405
	4. The Self	415
	5. The Meaning of Existence	425
	6. World Destruction	432
	7. Fond Farewell	440
Works Cited		449
Chronology of Ruin		453
	1. Before Common Era (BCE)	453
	2. Common Era (CE)	454
	3. Uncommon Error (UE)	460
Appendix	Bibliographical Essay on the Literature and Imagery of Ruin	461
	1. Aesthetic Theory	461
	2. Art History	465
	3. Individual Artists	469
	4. Literary History	470
	5. History of Culture	472
	6. Archaeology	473
	7. Individual Ruins	476
	8. Travel Literature	478
	9. Imaginative Literature	479
	10. Guidebooks and Souvenir Books	481
	11. Art of Photography	482
	12. Architecture	485
	13. Preservation	485
	14. History of Gardens	487
	15. Disaster Books	487
	16. War Ruins	488
	17. Ruin-Art Creations	489
	18. Philosophy	490
	19. Miscellaneous	492
About the Author		493
Index		495