CONTENTS

List of Illustrations vii
Acknowledgments ix

INTRODUCTION The Age of Verticality: The Closure of the Frontier to the 9/11 Memorial, 1890–2011 1

CHAPTER 1 “Down Down Down He Shot”: Winsor McCay’s Work, Vertical Collapse, and Time in the Modernist City 32

CHAPTER 2 Upton Sinclair’s Vertical Infernos: Oil Procurement and Disaster Culture 79

CHAPTER 3 “The Horizon Was an Illusion”: Flight, Escape, and Imagining Vertical Space in Leslie Marmon Silko’s Almanac of the Dead 111

CHAPTER 4 Terror/Power: Allen Ginsberg’s Nuclear Poetics and the Space Race 147

CHAPTER 5 Traversing Vertical Space: Philippe Petit’s Wire-Walk, Danger, and Transformation 180

CODA Up and Down Stories 210

Bibliography 221
Index 247