

**POETICS OF THE
LITERARY SELF-PORTRAIT**

MICHEL BEAUJOUR

"A serious and independent contribution to the literature of autobiography."

— John Sturrock
French Studies

"Clearly a landmark study. It seems certain to provoke a great deal of productive debate among those concerned with any of the many issues it raises."

— *Comparative Literature*

The literary self-portrait, often considered to be an ill-formed autobiography, is receiving more attention as a result of the current obsession with personal narrative, but little progress has been made toward an understanding of its specific features. With *Poetics of the Literary Self-Portrait*, Michel Beaujour reveals the hidden ambitions of this genre. From St. Augustine to Montaigne, from Nietzsche to Malraux, Leiris and Barthes, individual self-portraits are analyzed jointly with the enduring cultural matrix from which self-portrayal derives its disconcerting non-narrative structure, and many of its recurrent topics.

New York University Studies in French Culture and Civilization

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
WASHINGTON SQUARE, NEW YORK, NY 10003



0814711928 (879702)

ISBN

Poetics of the Literary
Self-Portrait (New York University
Studies in French Culture and
Civilization)