



Epic Ambitions in Modern Times

From Paradise Lost to the New Millennium

By Robert Crossley

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Explores how artists in the past three centuries, working in varied forms and media, have aimed for the previously unattempted in epic creation.

Epic Ambitions in Modern Times explores how artists in varied genres and media have aimed for, in Milton's phrase, "things unattempted yet" in epic creation. Starting with the last books of *Paradise Lost* as a farewell to the ancient tradition of epic and extending to an assessment of four twenty-first-century women writers retelling canonical epics in the voices of marginalized characters, the book's intervening chapters consider epic in the forms of an epistolary novel, a work of history, a poetic autobiography, an opera, a silent film, a series of paintings, two literary fantasies, three poems set in the future and a play.

Readership

General readers; scholars in fields of literary and cultural history; teachers and students of epic; anyone interested in the nature of creativity.

Key selling points

- Broadens understanding of what constitutes "epics" and how they matter
- Takes readers on a journey of discovery from *Paradise Lost* to *Circe*
- Uncovers new connections among works not usually treated together
- Written in clear, readable prose for nonspecialists as well as scholars.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Robert Crossley is a literary critic, editor, and biographer and former chair of the English Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

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