Taking its cue from Jacques Derrida's concept of différance, *Machinic Deconstruction: Literature / Politics / Technics* addresses the question whether it is possible to conceive of a work of technics that is operative at the same quasi-ontological level as différance itself. To do so, this study develops a concept of technics that is inscribed with multiplicity and heterogeneity from the very outset, while at the same time defying rigid order and origin. This leads to a deconstruction of the difference between natural and technical, and to a new conceptualization of the machine.

In the wake of technics, machines emerge in an attempt to impose order, calculation and origin. The author distinguishes between three different machines: a literary machine, a metaphysical machine, and a political machine. These three machines constantly interrelate, but while the metaphysical machine plays a decisive role in structuring the interrelation between these three machines, the literary machine plays a decisive role in deconstructing the interrelations.

Bram Ieven (1979) was trained as a philosopher and a literary theorist at the Higher Institute for Philosophy at the Catholic University of Leuven, at the Queen's University Belfast, and at Leiden University. He currently teaches philosophy at the Provinciale Hogeschool Limburg (Belgium) and literary theory at the University of Utrecht (the Netherlands).

In 2006 Leiden University has initiated a series *Leiden Dissertations* at Leiden University Press. This series affords an opportunity to those who have recently obtained their doctorate to publish the results of their doctoral research so as to ensure a wide distribution among colleagues and the interested public. The dissertations will become available both in printed and in digital versions. Books from this LUP series can be ordered through www.lup.nl. The large majority of Leiden dissertations from 2005 onwards is available digitally on www.dissertation.leidenuniv.nl.

LUP DISSERTATIONS





Bram Ieven

Machinic Deconstruction

LITERATURE / POLITICS / TECHNICS

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY PRESS

LUP

Bram Ieven ·

Iewen.indd 1

15 10 2007 925 10