

Gail Jones

# SYDNEY STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

Robert Dixon, Series Editor

---

The **Sydney Studies in Australian Literature** series publishes original, peer-reviewed research in the field of Australian literary studies. It offers engagingly written evaluations of the nature and importance of Australian literature, and aims to reinvigorate its study both locally and internationally.

***Alex Miller: The Ruin of Time***

Robert Dixon

***Australian Books and Authors in the American Marketplace 1840s–1940s***

David Carter and Roger Osborne

***Christina Stead and the Matter of America***

Fiona Morrison

***Colonial Australian Fiction: Character Types, Social Formations and the Colonial Economy***

Ken Gelder and Rachael Weaver

***Contemporary Australian Literature: A World Not Yet Dead***

Nicholas Birns

***Elizabeth Harrower: Critical Essays***

Ed. Elizabeth McMahon and Brigitta Olubas

***Fallen Among Reformers: Miles Franklin, Modernity, and the New Woman***

Janet Lee

***The Fiction of Tim Winton: Earthed and Sacred***

Lyn McCredden

***Gail Jones: Word, Image, Ethics***

Tanya Dalziell

***Gerald Murnane: Another World in This One***

Ed. Anthony Uhlmann

***Richard Flanagan: Critical Essays***

Ed. Robert Dixon

***Shirley Hazzard: New Critical Essays***

Ed. Brigitta Olubas

# Gail Jones

Word, Image, Ethics

Tanya Dalziell



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY PRESS

First published by Sydney University Press

© Tanya Dalziell 2020

© Sydney University Press 2020

**Reproduction and communication for other purposes**

Except as permitted under the Act, no part of this edition may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or communicated in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All requests for reproduction or communication should be made to Sydney University Press at the address below:

Sydney University Press  
Fisher Library F03  
University of Sydney NSW 2006  
AUSTRALIA  
[sup.info@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sup.info@sydney.edu.au)  
[sydneyuniversitypress.com.au](http://sydneyuniversitypress.com.au)



A catalogue record for this book is available from  
the National Library of Australia.

ISBN 9781743326978 paperback

ISBN 9781743327012 epub

ISBN 9781743327029 mobi

ISBN 9781743327036 pdf

Cover image: Heike Steinweg Photography

*For Eladia, Caleb & Jordi*



# Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	1
1 Weather	23
2 Time	49
3 Reading and Writing	79
4 Image	105
5 Modernity	141
Conclusions	169
Works Cited	173
Index	181





# Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Robert Dixon, the SUP series editor. Robert's scholarship on Gail Jones' novels is an inspiration and his intelligent engagement with this volume has been invaluable. I wish to acknowledge and thank the Honours students with whom I have discussed Gail Jones' writing over several years. Their insights and questions have helped shape my thinking and reading. I am grateful for the collegiate spirit and solidarity that distinguishes our English and Literary Studies group at the University of Western Australia. Special thanks to Paul Genoni for his friendship, erudition and good humour, and to Victoria Burrows for her camaraderie. As always, Margot and Kevin Dalziell have been unfailingly supportive. My deepest, affectionate thanks are owed to Jamie Hamilton and Eladia, Caleb and Jordi Hamilton-Dalziell.