Contents

List of illustrations vi
Preface ix
List of abbreviations xii

1 The mirror of Florence 1
2 Trials and tribulations 10
3 In the realm of Venus 22
4 Judaeo-Christian divan 34
5 Wonderful light: A city at the dawn of the modern age 40
6 Florentine circles 62
7 The Florence of foreigners 82
8 North and South: Germans and Florentines 94
9 May 1898 108
10 In defence of history 122
11 Neurasthenia and mental balance: On Leonardo and Piero della Francesca 136
12 Dealers in beauty 148
13 The last Romantics 168
14 Modern Florence 184
15 ‘Ninfa fiorentina’ 214
16 A farewell to Florence 228
17 In the new century 240

Notes 255
Primary sources 000
Secondary sources 000
Index 000
List of Illustrations

1  Hans Thoma, *The Park at the Hildebrand Villa* (1887): Stadtmuseum, Bonn
2  Aby Warburg in Florence (1898): The Warburg Institute, London
3  View of Florence: The Warburg Institute, London
4  Franz von Stuck, *Sin* (c.1893): Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich
5  Evelyn De Morgan, *Flora* (1894): The De Morgan Foundation, London (The Bridgeman Art Gallery)
6  Sandro Botticelli, *Primavera* (c.1478): Uffizi, Florence (Antella, Scala)
7  Mary and Aby Warburg (c.1900): The Warburg Institute, London
8  Jan Pieter Veth, *Charlotte and Moritz Warburg* (c.1900): Hamburg (private owner)
9  Giorgio Sommer, View of Florence from the Boboli Gardens (c.1868): Siegert Collection, Munich
10 Visitors walking through the CASCINE: Fratelli Alinari, Florence
11 Jessie Hillebrand (c.1900): The Warburg Institute, London
12 Florence, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II (c.1900): Fratelli Alinari, Florence
13 Isolde Kurz (c.1890): Heimatmuseum, Reutlingen
14 Giorgio Sommer, The Loggia dei Lanzi, Florence (before 1873): Siegert Collection, Munich
15 Harris Brown, *Herbert P. Horne*, Fondazione Horne, Florence
16 The old ghetto in Florence before it was torn down – an oriental pageant during the 1886 carnival: Fratelli Alinari, Florence
18 Bernard Berenson standing beside a sideboard in his villa I Tatti (1900): Villa I Tatti, Florence
20 John Singer Sargent, Vernon Lee (Violet Paget) (1881): Tate Gallery London
21 Giorgio Kienerk, Il silenzio (1900), Musei civici, Pavia
22 Karl Stauffer-Bern, Self-Portrait: Kunsthaus, Zurich
23 Arnold Böcklin, Self-Portrait (1893), Kunstmuseum, Basel
24 Domenico Ghirlandaio, The Birth of John the Baptist (1486–90): Tornabuoni Chapel, Santa Maria Novella, Florence (Antella, Scala)
25 Isadora Duncan (1900): The New York Public Library (Dance Division), New York
26 Max Klinger, The Isle of the Dead (after Arnold Böcklin) (1890): Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Zurich
27 Aby Warburg working in the archives, caricature: The Warburg Institute, London
28 Florence, View of the city (c.1900): The Warburg Institute, London