Contents

PREFACE ix

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xv

1 Recovering the Creole Synthesis: The Roots of Blackface Minstrelsy 1

2 The Creole Synthesis in the New World: Cultures in Contact 28

3 Long Island and the Lower East Side: Mount's Background, Youth, and Apprenticeships 79

4 Minstrelsy's Material Culture: The Evidence of Mount's Portraiture 122

5 Melody's Polyrhythmic Polysemic Possibilities: The Bodily Evidence of Mount’s Music 148

6 Akimbo Culture: Dance and the Participatory Pleasures of the Body 173

Conclusion: The Creole Synthesis in American Culture 210

Appendix: Blackface Scholarship 217

NOTES 235

INDEX 299

Illustrations follow page 124.