

Achilles' Marble Heel: Anaesthetic Autonomy in Kleist's *Penthesilea*

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Carl Schmitt's definition of sovereign power as deciding on the state of exception is directed against the indecisiveness he associates with a post-Kantian, aestheticizing, Romantic world view. Heinrich von Kleist's radicalization of the Kantian link between counter-purposiveness and freedom, however, positions aesthetic indetermination as decisive condition of historico-political agency. This paper explores the implications of this alternative notion of sovereignty.