Record Nr. UNINA9910139802203321 Autore **Grnstad Asbjrn** Titolo Transfigurations: violence, death and masculinity in American cinema / / Asbjrn Grnstad Pubbl/distr/stampa Amsterdam,: Amsterdam University Press, 2008 **ISBN** 1-282-17141-0 9786612171413 90-485-0850-9 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (274 pages) : illustrations Film culture in transition Collana Disciplina 791.436552 Soggetti Violence in motion pictures Death in motion pictures Masculinity in motion pictures Motion pictures, American Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Includes bibliographical references (p. [221]-260) and indexes. Nota di bibliografia Cover Page -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Contents --Nota di contenuto Acknowledgments -- Prolegomenon -- Introduction: Film Violence as Figurality -- I Screen Violence: Five Fallacies -- Empiricism --Aristotelianism -- Aestheticism -- Mythologicism -- Mimeticism -- II Filming Death -- 1 The Transfigured Image -- 2 Narrating Violence, or, Allegories of Dying -- III Male Subjectivities at the Margins -- 3 Mean Streets: Death and Disfiguration in Hawks's Scarface -- 4 Kubrick's The Killing and the Emplotment of Death -- 5 Blood of a Poet: Peckinpah's The Wild Bunch -- 6 As I Lay Dying: Violence and Subjectivity in Tarantino's Reservoir Dogs -- 7 One-Dimensional Men: Fincher's Fight Club and the End of Masculinity -- Postscript -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index of Names -- Index of Film Titles -- Index of Subjects -- Film Culture in Transition. Sommario/riassunto In many senses, viewers have cut their teeth on the violence in American cinema: from Anthony Perkins slashing Janet Leigh in the most infamous of shower scenes; to the 1970's masterpieces of Martin Scorsese, Sam Peckinpah and Francis Ford Coppola; to our present-day

undertakings in imagining global annihilations through terrorism, war,

and alien grudges. Transfigurations brings our cultural obsession with film violence into a renewed dialogue with contemporary theory. Grønstad argues that the use of violence in Hollywood films should be understood semiotically rather than viewed realistically; Tranfigurations thus alters both our methodology of reading violence in films and the meanings we assign to them, depicting violence not as a self-contained incident, but as a convoluted network of our own cultural ideologies and beliefs.