

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455420403321
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Titolo	All poets welcome [[electronic resource]] : the Lower East Side poetry scene in the 1960s // Daniel Kane
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2003
ISBN	1-282-76266-4 9786612762666 0-520-93643-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (343 p.)
Disciplina	811/.540997471
Soggetti	American poetry - New York (State) - New York - History and criticism Poets, American - Homes and haunts - New York (State) - New York American poetry - 20th century - History and criticism Electronic books. Lower East Side (New York, N.Y.) Intellectual life Lower East Side (New York, N.Y.) In literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Community through Poetry -- 2. Oral Poetics on the Lower East Side -- 3. The Aesthetics of the Little -- 4. The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church -- 5. Anne Waldman, The World, and the Early Years at the Poetry Project -- 6. Bernadette Mayer and "Language" in the Poetry Project -- Epilogue: Bob Holman, the Poetry Project, and the Nuyorican Poets Café -- Notes -- Sources and Permissions -- Index -- Playlist for Compact Disc
Sommario/riassunto	This landmark book, together with its accompanying CD, captures the heady excitement of the vibrant, irreverent poetry scene of New York's Lower East Side in the 1960's. Drawing from personal interviews with many of the participants, from unpublished letters, and from rare sound recordings, Daniel Kane brings together for the first time the people, political events, and poetic roots that coalesced into a highly influential community. From the poetry-reading venues of the early sixties, such as those at the Les Deux Mégots and Le Metro

coffeehouses to The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church, a vital forum for poets to this day, Kane traces the history of this literary renaissance, showing how it was born from a culture of publicly performed poetry. The Lower East Side in the sixties proved foundational in American verse culture, a defining era for the artistic and political avant-garde. The voices and works of John Ashbery, Amiri Baraka, Charles Bernstein, Bill Berkson, Ted Berrigan, Kenneth Koch, Bernadette Mayer, Ron Padgett, Denise Levertov, Paul Blackburn, Frank O'Hara, and many others enliven these pages, and the thirty five-track CD includes recordings of several of the poets reading from their work in the sixties and seventies. The Lower East Side's cafes, coffeehouses, and salons brought together poets of various aesthetic sensibilities, including writers associated with the so-called New York School, Beats, Black Mountain, Deep Image, San Francisco Renaissance, Umbra, and others. Kane shows that the significance for literary history of this loosely defined community of poets and artists lies in part in its reclaiming an orally centered poetic tradition, adapted specifically to open up the possibilities for an aesthetically daring, playful poetics and a politics of joy and resistance.
