Record Nr. UNINA9910461804603321
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Titolo The poetics of the everyday [[electronic resource]]: creative repetition

in modern American verse / / Siobhan Phillips

Pubbl/distr/stampa New York, : Columbia University Press, c2010

ISBN 1-280-59918-9

9786613629012 0-231-52029-8

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (335 p.)

Disciplina 811/.009

Soggetti American poetry - 20th century - History and criticism

Repetition in literature Repetition (Rhetoric) Electronic books.

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 (p. [275]-297) and index.

Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: The

Poetics of Everyday Time -- 1. The Middle Living of Robert Frost -- 2. The Faithful Mode of Wallace Stevens -- 3. The Everyday Elegies of Elizabeth Bishop -- 4. The Cosmic Dawnings of James Merrill -- Conclusion: Everyday Pasts and Everyday Futures -- Notes --

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Sommario/riassunto Wallace Stevens once described the "malady of the "idian," lamenting

the dull weight of everyday regimen. Yet he would later hail "that which is always beginning, over and over"recognizing, if not celebrating, the possibility of fresh invention. Focusing on the poems of Wallace Stevens, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, and James Merrill, Siobhan Phillips positions everyday time as a vital category in modernist aesthetics, American literature, and poetic theory. She eloquently reveals how, through particular but related means, each of these poets converts the necessity of "idian experience into an aesthetic and experiential opportunity. In Stevens, Phillips analyzes the implications of cyclic dualism. In Frost, she explains the theoretical depth of a habitual "middle way." In Bishop's work, she identifies the attempt to

turn recurrent mornings into a "ceremony" rather than a sentence, and in Merrill, she shows how cosmic theories rely on daily habits. Phillips ultimately demonstrates that a poetics of everyday time contributes not only to a richer understanding of these four writers but also to descriptions of their era, estimations of their genre, and ongoing reconfigurations of the issues that literature reflects and illuminates.