

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910586562203321
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Titolo	Contingent Encounters : improvisation in music and everyday life // Dan DiPiero
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ann Arbor, Michigan : , : University of Michigan Press, , 2022 ©2022
ISBN	0-472-90311-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (261 pages)
Disciplina	123
Soggetti	Improvisation (Music) - Philosophy and aesthetics Improvisation in art - Political aspects Contingency (Philosophy)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 225-237) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	"Contingent Encounters offers a sustained comparative study of improvisation as it appears between music and everyday life. Drawing on work in musicology, cultural studies, and critical improvisation studies, as well as his own performing experience, Dan DiPiero argues that comparing improvisation across domains calls into question how improvisation is typically recognized. By comparing the music of Eric Dolphy, Norwegian free improvisers, Mr. K, and the Ingrid Laubrock/Kris Davis duo with improvised activities in everyday life (such as walking, baking, working, and listening), DiPiero concludes that improvisation appears as a function of any encounter between subjects, objects, and environments. Bringing contingency into conversation with the utopian strain of critical improvisation studies, DiPiero shows how particular social investments cause improvisation to be associated with relative freedom, risk-taking, and unpredictability in both scholarship and public discourse. Taking seriously the claim that improvisation is the same thing as living, Contingent Encounters overturns longstanding assumptions about the aesthetic and political implications of this notoriously slippery term."

