

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779883903321
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Titolo	Modernism and the Aesthetics of Violence // Paul Sheehan [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-35812-4 1-107-23852-8 1-107-34225-2 1-107-34943-5 1-107-34600-2 1-107-34850-1 1-139-56829-9 1-107-34475-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 232 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	823/.9109112
Soggetti	Modernism (Literature) - Great Britain Modernism (Literature) - France Violence in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: modernism's blasted history -- Part I. Decadence Rising: The Violence of Aestheticism: 1. Revolution of the senses -- 2. Victorian sexual aesthetics -- 3. Culture, corruption, criminality -- 4. A malady of dreaming: The Picture of Dorian Gray -- Part II. Modernism's Breach: The Violence of Aesthetics: 5. Prologue: transgression displaced -- 6. No dreaming pale flowers -- 7. Modernist sexual politics -- 8. Maximum energy (like a hurricane) -- 9. Forbidden planet: Heart of Darkness -- Epilogue: traumas of the world -- Notes -- Bibliography.
Sommario/riassunto	The notion that violence can give rise to art - and that art can serve as an agent of violence - is a dominant feature of modernist literature. In this study Paul Sheehan traces the modernist fascination with violence to the middle decades of the nineteenth century, when certain French

and English writers sought to celebrate dissident sexualities and stylized criminality. Sheehan presents a panoramic view of how the aesthetics of transgression gradually mutates into an infatuation with destruction and upheaval, identifying the First World War as the event through which the modernist aesthetic of violence crystallizes. By engaging with exemplary modernists such as Joyce, Conrad, Eliot and Pound, as well as lesser-known writers including Gautier, Sacher-Masoch, Wyndham Lewis and others, Sheehan shows how artworks, so often associated with creative well-being and communicative self-expression, can be reoriented toward violent and bellicose ends.

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