

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779905403321
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Titolo	Elizabeth Bishop and Marianne Moore [[electronic resource]] : the psychodynamics of creativity // Joanne Feit Diehl
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, N.J., : Princeton University Press, c1993
ISBN	1-282-47321-2 9786612473210 1-4008-2086-3 1-4008-1139-2
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (132 p.)
Disciplina	811/.54
Soggetti	Feminism and literature - United States - History - 20th century Women and literature - United States - History - 20th century American poetry - Women authors - History and criticism Poets, American - 20th century - Psychology Feminist poetry, American - History and criticism Modernism (Literature) - United States Influence (Literary, artistic, etc.) Women poets, American - Psychology Poetry - Psychological aspects Psychoanalysis and literature Authorship - Sex differences Creative ability
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. 111-116) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- INTRODUCTION: The Muse's Monogram -- CHAPTER ONE. "Efforts of Affection": Toward a Theory of Female Poetic Influence -- CHAPTER TWO. Reading Bishop Reading Moore -- CHAPTER THREE. The Memory of Desire and the Landscape of Form: Reading Bishop through Object-Relations Theory -- CONCLUSION: Object Relations, Influence, and the Woman Poet -- Notes -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

This highly innovative work on poetic influence among women writers focuses on the relationship between modernist poet Elizabeth Bishop and her mentor Marianne Moore. Departing from Freudian models of influence theory that ignore the question of maternal presence, Joanne Diehl applies the psychoanalytic insights of object relations theorists Melanie Klein and Christopher Bollas to woman-to-woman literary transactions. She lays the groundwork for a far-reaching critical approach as she shows that Bishop, mourning her separation from her natural mother, strives to balance gratitude toward Moore, her literary mother, with a potentially disabling envy. Diehl begins by exploring Bishop's memoir of Moore, "Efforts of Affection," as an attempt by Bishop to verify Moore's uniqueness in order to defend herself against her predecessor's almost overwhelming originality. She then offers an intertextual reading of the two writers' works that inquires into Bishop's ambivalence toward Moore. In an analysis of "Crusoe in England" and "In the Village," Diehl exposes the restorative impulses that fuel aesthetic creation and investigates how Bishop thematizes an understanding of literary production as a process of psychic compensation.
