

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780171803321
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Titolo	A trauma artist [[electronic resource]] : Tim O'Brien and the fiction of Vietnam // Mark A. Heberle
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Iowa City, : University of Iowa Press, c2001
ISBN	1-58729-328-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (375 p.)
Disciplina	813.54 813/.54
Soggetti	Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Literature and the war Post-traumatic stress disorder - United States War stories, American - History and criticism Postmodernism (Literature) - United States Psychic trauma in literature Soldiers 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 (p. 325-335) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preface; Introduction: Vietnam as Figure and Symptom: "We've All Been There"; A Trauma Artist; The Fiction of Vietnam; 1 Fabricating Trauma; "The Vietnam in Me"; O'Brien's Endless War; Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Vietnam; PTSD and Writing; O'Brien's Art of Trauma; Writing Beyond Vietnam; 2 A Bad War; Origins of "'If I Die in a Combat Zone'"; Fictionalized Testimony; O'Brien's Self-Representation: Soldier Versus Writer; Moral Combat; "'Combat Zone'" as Source for a Career; 3 The Old Man and the Pond; Self-Displacement in "'Northern Lights'"; Literary Mimicry: Realism, Symbolism, Allegory Harvey's Story: Vietnam as Tragicomedy Paul's Story: The Feminization of Virtue; Novel Revisions; 4 A Soldier's Dream; The Re-covering of Trauma: Paul Berlin as Tim O'Brien; "'Cacciato'": From Short Stories to Trauma Narrative; "Going After Cacciato": From Catalog to Breakdown; Paul Berlin: From Breakdown to Trauma Writing; The Quest for Cacciato: Fantasy and the Burial of the Dead; The Observation Post: Retraumatization and Endless Fantasy; 5 The Bombs Are Real; An Ambitious Failure?; The Traumatization of William Cowling; Parabolic

Fiction: Mutual Assured Destruction and Civil Defense

"The Nuclear Age" and Vietnam
The Failure of William Cowling; 6 True War Stories; Recirculated Trauma, Endless Fiction; "The Things They Carried" as Self-Revision; "How to Tell a True War Story": Misreading Tim O'Brien; Other Refabrications of Trauma; "The Lives of the Dead": Bringing Them Back Alive; 7 The People We Kill; Trauma, Tragedy, National Disgrace; Metafictional Investigations; The Breakdown of John Wade; Tragic Revisions; John Wade as Paradigm and Persona: Tim O'Brien's Trauma; Psychobiography, History, and Fiction; 8 Guys Just Want to Have Fun; Vietnam and the Age of Clinton
A Dictionary of Love
In Defense of Thomas Chippering; PTSD as Comedy/Vietnam as Parody; Saving Tim O'Brien: "Tomcat in Love" as Countertherapy; Conclusion: A Trauma Artist; Posttraumatic Nation; Academic Polemics; Responsible Dreams; Appendix: "Diagnostic Criteria for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, DSM-IV"; Notes; References; Index

Sommario/riassunto

A Trauma Artist examines how O'Brien's works variously rewrite his own traumatization during the war in Vietnam as a never-ending fiction that paradoxically "recovers" personal experience by both recapturing and (re)disguising it. Mark Heberle considers O'Brien's career as a writer through the prisms of post-traumatic stress disorder, postmodernist metafiction, and post-World War II American political uncertainties and public violence.
