Record Nr. Autore Titolo Pubbl/distr/stampa	UNINA9910783060103321 Murphy Richard (Richard John) Theorizing the avant-garde : modernism, expressionism, and the problem of postmodernity / / Richard Murphy [[electronic resource]] Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 1999
ISBN	1-107-11581-7 1-280-15353-9 0-511-11712-4 0-511-04018-0 0-511-14979-4 0-511-48318-X 0-511-32454-5 0-511-05118-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 325 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Literature, culture, theory ; ; 32
Disciplina	809/.911
Soggetti	Literature, Modern - 20th century - History and criticism - Theory, etc Avant-garde (Aesthetics) Modernism (Literature) Expressionism in literature Postmodernism (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 (p. 300-313) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Theories of the avant-garde Re-writing the discursive world: revolution and the expressionist avant-garde Counter-discourses of the avant-garde: Jameson, Bakhtin and the problem of realism The poetics of hysteria: expressionist drama and the melodramatic imagination Kafka's photograph of the imaginary. Dialogical interplay between realism and the fantastic. (The metamorphosis) Weimar silent film and expressionism: representational instability and oppositional discourse in The cabinet of Dr. Caligari Conclusion. Postmodernism and the avant-garde.
Sommario/riassunto	In Modernism, Expressionism and Theories of the Avant Garde, Richard Murphy mobilises theories of the postmodern to challenge our

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understanding of the avant-garde. He assesses the importance of the avant-garde for contemporary culture and for the debates among theorists of postmodernism such as Jameson, Eagleton, Lyotard and Habermas. Murphy reconsiders the classic formulation of the avantgarde in Lukacs and Bloch, especially their discussion of aesthetic autonomy, and investigates the relationship between art and politics via a discussion of Marcuse, Adorno and Benjamin. Combining close textual readings of a wide range of films as well as works of literature, it draws on a rich array of critical theories, such as those of Bakhtin, Todorov, MacCabe, Belsey and Raymond Williams. This interdisciplinary project will appeal to all those interested in modernist and avant-garde movements of the early twentieth century, and provides a critical rethinking of the present-day controversy regarding postmodernity.