Record Nr. UNINA9910786171703321 Autore Taylor Mark C. <1945-> Titolo Rewiring the real: in conversation with William Gaddis, Richard Powers, Mark Danielewski, and Don DeLillo / / Mark C. Taylor Pubbl/distr/stampa New York:,: Columbia University Press,, 2013 ©2013 **ISBN** 0-231-53164-8 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (339 p.) Collana Religion, Culture, and Public Life Classificazione HU 3451 Disciplina 810.9/356 Technology in literature Soggetti American literature - 20th century - History and criticism American literature - 21st century - History and criticism Technological innovations - Religious aspects Theology in literature Spirituality in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Materiale a stampa **Formato** Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- neus -- 1. Nota di contenuto Counterfeiting Counterfeit Religion / Gaddis, William -- 2. Mosaics: Richard Powers, Plowing the Dark / Powers, Richard -- 3. Figuring Nothing: Mark Danielewski, House of Leaves / Danielewski, Mark -- 4. "Holy Shit!": Don DeLillo, Underworld -- 5. Concluding Unscientific Postscript: Two Styles of the Philosophy of Religion --Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Index Sommario/riassunto Digital and electronic technologies that act as extensions of our bodies and minds are changing how we live, think, act, and write. Some welcome these developments as bringing humans closer to unified consciousness and eternal life. Others worry that invasive globalized technologies threaten to destroy the self and the world. Whether feared or desired, these innovations provoke emotions that have long fueled the religious imagination, suggesting the presence of a latent spirituality in an era mistakenly deemed secular and posthuman. William

> Gaddis, Richard Powers, Mark Danielewski, and Don DeLillo are American authors who explore this phenomenon thoroughly in their

work. Engaging the works of each in conversation, Mark C. Taylor discusses their sophisticated representations of new media, communications, information, and virtual technologies and their transformative effects on the self and society. He focuses on Gaddis's The Recognitions, Powers's Plowing the Dark, Danielewski's House of Leaves, and DeLillo's Underworld, following the interplay of technology and religion in their narratives and their imagining of the transition from human to posthuman states. Their challenging ideas and inventive styles reveal the fascinating ways religious interests affect emerging technologies and how, in turn, these technologies guide spiritual aspirations. To read these novels from this perspective is to see them and the world anew.