

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787475503321
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Titolo	A mirror to nature : transformations in drama and aesthetics, 1660-1732 / / Rose A. Zimbardo
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lexington, Kentucky : , : The University Press of Kentucky, , 1986 ©1986
ISBN	0-8131-6498-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (257 p.)
Disciplina	822/.4/09384
Soggetti	English drama - Restoration, 1660-1700 - History and criticism English drama - 18th century - History and criticism Aesthetics, Modern - 17th century Aesthetics, Modern - 18th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: p. [226]-242.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgments; 1. The Four Stages of Dramatic Imitation, 1660-1732; 2. Imitation of Nature as Idea; 3. Imitation of Nature as ""The City Between""; 4. The Varieties of Dramatic Satire in the 1670's; 5. Nature as the Experiential Actual, 1680-1700; 6. Imitation of the Inner Arena: Sentimental, Pornographic, or Novelistic?; 7. Emulation: The Early Eighteenth Century; Notes; Index;
Sommario/riassunto	In this provocative study Rose Zimbardo examines a crucial revolution in aesthetics that took place in the late seventeenth century and that to this day dominates our response to literature. Although artists of that time continued to follow the precept ""imitate nature,"" that nature no longer corresponds to the earlier understanding of the term. What had been in essence an allegorical mode came to be a literal one. Focusing on the drama of the period as an exemplary form, Zimbardo shows how it moved from depicting a metaphysical reality of idea to portraying an inner reality of individual