

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789931303321
Autore	Twiddy Iain
Titolo	Pastoral elegy in contemporary British and Irish poetry [[electronic resource] /] / Iain Twiddy
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York, : Continuum, c2012
ISBN	1-4411-7489-3 1-280-57604-9 9786613605733 1-4411-2697-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (305 p.)
Collana	Continuum literary studies
Disciplina	821/.9109
Soggetti	Pastoral poetry, English - History and criticism Elegiac poetry, English - History and criticism English poetry - Irish authors - History and criticism
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.
Nota di contenuto	Title; Copy right; Contents; Acknowledgements; Introduction: Contemporary Pastoral Elegy; Pastoral Elegy Today; The Endangered Elegy; Why Pastoral Elegy?; What Happens in a Pastoral Elegy?; Social Pastoral Elegy; Notes; 1 Inheritance and Commemoration: Memorial Landscapes in Michael Longley's Poetry; 'Betweenness' and the Nature of Memory; Pastoral Elegy and War; The Consoling Image; Pastoral Elegy and Communal Remembrance; Closed and Open Form; Notes; 2 Community Poetry 1: Pastoral Elegy in Ted Hughes's Remains of Elmet, Moortown Diary and River Communal Forms: Eclogue, Pastoral Elegy and Reverse Pastoral Elegy Remains of Elmet; The Farmer Poet: Animal Elegy in Moortown Diary; Pastoral and Conservation: River; Notes; 3 Community Poetry 2: Pastoral Elegy in Ted Hughes's Birthday Letters; Exorcism and the Use of Communal Myth; Fate Narratives and Exoneration; Violation and Peace; Notes; 4 Leaving Home: Seamus Heaney's Parental Elegies; Maternal Pietas in 'Clearances'; From Actual to Virtual Landscapes; Paternal Elegy: Making Contact with the Father; Notes; 5 Pastoral and Aftermath: Seamus Heaney

Pastoral and Aftermath: The Virgilian Model Pastoral Elegy and Restoration; Pastoral Elegy and Artistic Responsibility; Notes; 6 'Routine Periodic Faunal Extinctions': Peter Reading's Ecological Elegies 1; Ecological Elegy and Intimacy; Anti-Pastoral Elegy in C.; Environmental Degeneration; Economics and Ecology in *Perduta Gente*; Elegy and Ecological Ethics in Faunal; Notes; 7 Contemporary Female Poets and Pastoral Elegy; Male and Female Mourning; Women and Irish National Elegy: Boland and Ni Dhomhnaill; Varieties of Female Pastoral Elegy: Meehan and Shuttle; Notes  
8 Grief Brought to Numbers: Paul Muldoon's Circular Elegies Rhyme and Shape: Elegy and Cancerous Form; Pastoral Landscape and Oedipal Navigation: 'Yarrow'; Alternative Lives: Self-Elegy; Anti-Elegy: 'The Stoic'; Notes; 9 The Ethics of Pastoral Elegy: Douglas Dunn and Christopher Reid; The Ethics of Mourning in Elegies; The Loss of the Pastoral State in Elegies; Consolation and the Verdict of Reality; Pastoral Necessity in A Scattering; The Flowering of Grief; Notes; Conclusion: The Future of Pastoral Elegy; Notes; Bibliography; Index

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Sommario/riassunto

Defying critical suggestions that the pastoral elegy is obsolete, Iain Twiddy reveals the popularity of the form in the work of major contemporary poets Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes and Paul Muldoon, Michael Longley, Douglas Dunn and Peter Reading. As Twiddy outlines the development of the form, he identifies its characteristics and functions. But more importantly his study accounts for the enduring appeal of the pastoral elegy, why poets look to its conventions during times of personal distress and social disharmony, and how it allows them to recover from grief, loss and destruction. Informed by

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