Record Nr. UNINA9910797355503321 Autore Szendy Peter Titolo Apocalypse-cinema: 2012 and other ends of the world // Peter Szendy ; translated by Will Bishop Pubbl/distr/stampa New York: ,: Fordham University Press, , 2015 ©2015 **ISBN** 0-8232-6684-2 0-8232-6483-1 0-8232-6484-X Edizione [First edition.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (181 p.) 791.43615 Disciplina Soggetti Science fiction films - History and criticism Apocalypse in motion pictures Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Front matter -- CONTENTS -- Foreword: One Sun Too Many -- Chapter 1 Melancholia, or The After-All -- Chapter 2 The Last Man on Earth, or Film as Countdown -- Chapter 3 Cloverfield, or The Holocaust of the Date -- Chapter 4 Terminator, or The Arche-Traveling Shot -- Chapter 5 2012, or Pyrotechnics -- Chapter 6 A.I., or The Freeze -- Chapter 7 Pause, for Inventory (the "Apo") -- Chapter 8 Watchmen, or The Layering of the Cineworld -- Chapter 9 Sunshine, or The Black-and-White Radiography -- Chapter 10 Blade Runner, or The Interworlds --Chapter 11 Twelve Monkeys, or The Pipes of the Apocalypse -- Chapter 12 The Road, or The Language of a Drowned Era -- Chapter 13 The Blob, or The Bubble -- Postface II n'y a pas de hors-film, or Cinema and Its Cinders -- Notes -- Index of Films Sommario/riassunto Apocalypse-cinema is not only the end of time that has so often been staged as spectacle in films like 2012, The Day After Tomorrow, and The Terminator. By looking at blockbusters that play with general annihilation while also paying close attention to films like Melancholia, Cloverfield, Blade Runner, and Twelve Monkeys, this book suggests that

in the apocalyptic genre, film gnaws at its own limit. Apocalypse-

cinema is, at the same time and with the same double blow, the end of

the world and the end of the film. It is the consummation and the (self-)consumption of cinema, in the form of an a cinema that Lyotard evoked as the nihilistic horizon of filmic economy. The innumerable countdowns, dazzling radiations, freeze-overs, and seismic cracks and crevices are but other names and pretexts for staging film itself, with its economy of time and its rewinds, its overexposed images and fades to white, its freeze-frames and digital touch-ups. The apocalyptic genre is not just one genre among others: It plays with the very conditions of possibility of cinema. And it bears witness to the fact that, every time, in each and every film, what Jean-Luc Nancy called the cine-world is exposed on the verge of disappearing. In a Postface specially written for the English edition, Szendy extends his argument into a debate with speculative materialism. Apocalypse-cinema, he argues, announces itself as cinders that question the "ultratestimonial" structure of the filmic gaze. The cine-eye, he argues, eludes the correlationism and anthropomorphic structure that speculative materialists have placed under critique, allowing only the ashes it bears to be heard.