1. Record Nr. UNINA9910814089103321 Autore Lechte John

Titolo Julia Kristeva / / John Lechte

Pubbl/distr/stampa London, : Routledge, 2013

ISBN 1-136-19925-X

> 0-203-08559-0 1-283-84613-6 1-136-19926-8

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (257 p.)

Routledge library editions: Feminist theory Collana

Disciplina 801.95092

Criticism - France - History - 20th century Soggetti

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

First published in 1990. Note generali

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto JULIA KRISTEVA; Copyright; Julia Kristeva; Copyright; Contents; Editor's

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A leading literary critic and psychoanalyst, Julia Kristeva is one of the most significant French thinkers writing today. In this up-to-date survey of her work, John Lechte outlines fully and systematically her intellectual development. He traces it from her work on Bakhtin and the logic of poetic language in the 1960s, through her influential theories of the 'symbolic' and the 'semiotic' in the 1970s, to her analyses of horror, love, melancholy and cosmopolitanism in the 1980s. He provides an insight into the intellectual and historical context which gave rise to Kristeva's thought, showin