

Poetics of Modernity (Philosophy and Literary Theory)

By Richard Kearney

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Kearney addresses one of the key issues of modern European thought—how the crisis of values (ethics) relates to the crisis of imagination (poetics). Through a series of in-depth studies of thinkers such as Kierkegaard, Husserl, Heidegger, Levinas, Ricoeur, Derrida, and others, Kearney explores the ways in which Continental philosophy, in both its modern and postmodern guises, has endeavored to respond to these twin crises. Some studies focus on the dilemma of individual imagination faced with the fragmentation of inherited concepts of truth, God, or the good. Others concentrate on conflicts internal to the social imagination of our times—e.g., ideology versus utopia, myth versus critique, tradition versus reason, modernity versus postmodernity. Kearney also applies these philosophical disputes to a number of postmodern texts in literature and to painting and politics.

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Review
"Richard Kearney's wide-ranging [book] brings together strands of modern thought and sensibility which are all-too-often held apart."

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About the Author
Richard Kearney is Professor of Philosophy at University College Dublin and also Visiting European Professor for part of the year at Boston College.

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