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## The Avant-Garde and American Postmodernity: Small Incisive Shocks

By Philip Nel

University Press of Mississippi. Paperback. Condition: New. 265 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. The Avant-Garde and American Postmodernity: Small Incisive Shocks by Philip Nel. Was there a sudden break in the world of art, literature, and music when modernism gave way to postmodernism Philip Nel attacks the notion of tremendous and sudden change in artistic understanding and literary practice. Instead, in The Avant-Garde and American Postmodernity: Small Incisive Shocks he proposes that a series of small but far-reaching changes drew understanding from modernism to postmodernism. What bonds these two periods together The constant agent of change, Nel argues, was the avant-garde. Tracking its influence on novelists, popular culture figures, and childrens authors, this book re-evaluates how twentieth-century culture has been traditionally divided into modern and postmodern. Suggesting that a modernism and postmodernism division prevents accurate evaluation of a work, Nel realigns our conceptions of twentieth-century literature, art, and music. Focusing on eight figures--Nathanael West, Djuna Barnes, Dr. Seuss, Donald Barthelme, Don DeLillo, Chris Van Allsburg, Laurie Anderson, and Leonard Cohen-as representative, this book examines works along a spectrum of political involvement. Unencumbered by excessive jargon but deeply rooted in theories of postmodernity, Nels work has an accessible style, maintaining...


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