

Constance DeJong

Modern Love

In 1975, Constance DeJong published *Modern Love* on her own Standard Editions imprint with the support of Dorothea Tanning. Critically acclaimed upon its release, this “forgotten classic of narrative prose innovation” (Chris Kraus) fell out of print and into obscurity. This 30th anniversary facsimile edition brings DeJong’s lost novel back into circulation for a new readership.

Modern Love is one thing made up of many: It’s science-fiction. It’s a detective story. It is a historical episode in the time of the Armada and the dislocation of Sephardic Jews from Spain to an eventual location in New York’s lower east side. It is a first-person narrator’s story; Charlotte’s story; and Roderigo’s; and Fifi Corday’s. It is a 150 year old story about Oregon. *Modern Love*’s continuity is made of flow and motion, like an experience, it accumulates, as you read, at that moment, through successive moments, right to the end.

// *Modern Love* feels even more radical now than it did when it first came out.

— CHRIS KRAUS

// [...] engaging and hypnotic in the tradition of story telling where legend, fact, imagination and reality coalesce.

— BOB REILLY, *THE ICA/BOSTON*

// [...] everyone was doing everything — and *Modern Love* exactly captured its time.

— MARTHA WILSON

// *Modern Love* is a post-modern classic, finally back in print.

— ANNE TURYN



Constance DeJong has worked for over three decades on narrative form within the context of avant-garde music and contemporary art. DeJong’s prose writing extends into multiple forms — performances, audio installations, print texts, electronic objects, audio and video works. Well-known for her contributions and influences to downtown New York’s performance art and media art scene of the 1970s and ‘80s, DeJong’s writing extends off the page through the body, resonating out of objects and into the space of the theater.



Trade Paperback

Fiction | \$18

4.75" x 7.185" | 224 pp.

ISBN 978-0-991558-52-0

Distributed Art Publishers

Series: Lost Lit #17

Release Date: May 1, 2017

**Co-published with
Primary Information**

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