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Tango Nuevo

Carolyn Merritt

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Carolyn Merritt : Tango Nuevo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tango Nuevo:

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very technical as it is written as a thesis and not for a leisure read for pure pleasure. I recommend this for anyone who likes facts about tango. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. wonderful book By booklover very readable, informative and entertaining. lovely photos to enhance the text. great for dancers and non dancers alike. an achievement in music and dance lit.

Required reading for anyone who understands the electrifying power that dance has to transform a life. Exceptionally well written. . . . [Merritts] lively, engaging writing style is unique it can go from side-splittingly funny to poignant in the time it takes to execute a boleo. Melissa A. Fitch, author of *Side Dishes: Latina American Women, Sex, and Cultural Production* The Argentine tango is one of the worlds best-known partner dances. Though tango is much admired and discussed, very little has been written about its ongoing evolution. While the dance is steeped in history, the younger generation has begun to push tango into new and provocative realms. In the most cutting-edge performances, men and women switch the roles of leader and follower; ideas from swing, salsa, and blues are freely incorporated; and dress has become anything but traditional. While some may refer to this as tango nuevo, the term has been met with much resistance. In this innovative work, Carolyn Merritt surveys tango history while focusing on the most recent iteration of the dance and the practice scene that has exploded in Buenos Aires since the early 2000s. She examines this growing, thriving community of young and eager dancers who are pushing the tango beyond its traditional limits, along with the spaces they've created within which to dance, socialize, and experiment in ways more befitting their ages, desires, schedules, and attitudes. After starting with an overview of tango, Merritt leads readers through the traditional dance halls and the less formal practices of Buenos Aires to tango communities on both coasts of the United States. Along the way, her personal observations show the dances emotional depth and the challenges dancers face in tango venues old and new. Merritts investigation also demonstrates how innovation, globalization, and fusion, which many associate with nuevo, have always been at work in tango. Combining sensuous prose, provocative images, and heart-wrenching stories, Merritt presents an unflinching look at the complex motivations driving the pursuit to master this intricate dance. Throughout, she questions the newness of nuevo through portraits of machismo, violence, and elitism in contemporary tango. The result is a book that highlights the tensions between preservation and evolution of this or any cultural art form. Carolyn Merritt lives in Philadelphia, where she teaches anthropology and performance studies and works with the ThINKing Dance project.

From the Inside Flap The Argentine tango is one of the worlds best-known partner dances. Though tango is much admired and discussed, very little has been written about its ongoing evolution. While the dance is steeped in history, the younger generation has begun to push tango into new and provocative realms. In the most cutting-edge performances, men and women switch the roles of leader and follower; ideas from swing, salsa, and blues are freely incorporated; and dress has become anything but traditional. While some may refer to this as tango nuevo, the term has been met with much resistance. In this innovative work, Carolyn Merritt surveys tango history while focusing on the most recent iteration of the dance and the practice scene that has exploded in Buenos Aires since the early 2000s. She examines this growing, thriving community of young and eager dancers who are pushing the tango beyond its traditional limits, along with the spaces they've created within which to dance, socialize, and experiment in ways more befitting their ages, desires, schedules, and attitudes. After starting with an overview of tango, Merritt leads readers through the traditional dance halls and the less formal practices of Buenos Aires to tango communities on both coasts of the United States. Along the way, her personal observations show the dances emotional depth and the challenges dancers face in tango venues old and new. Merritts investigation also demonstrates how innovation, globalization, and fusion, which many associate with nuevo, have always been at work in tango. Combining sensuous prose, provocative images, and heart-wrenching stories, Merritt presents an unflinching look at the complex motivations driving the pursuit to master this intricate dance. Throughout, she questions the newness of nuevo through portraits of machismo, violence, and elitism in contemporary tango. The result is a book that highlights the tensions between preservation and evolution of this or any cultural art form. Carolyn Merritt lives in Philadelphia, where she teaches anthropology and performance studies and works with the ThINKing Dance project.