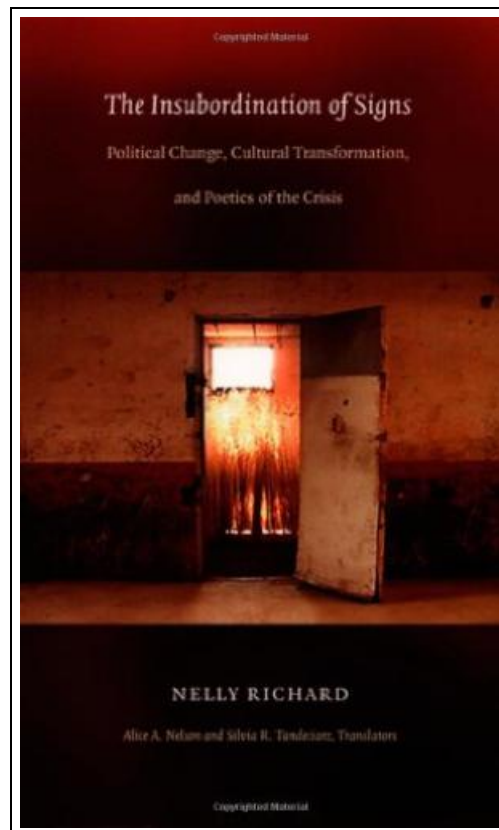


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Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, *The Insubordination of Signs: Political Change, Cultural Transformation, and Poetics of the Crisis*, Nelly Richard, Nelly Richard is one of the most prominent cultural theorists writing in Latin America today. As a participant in Chile's neo-avantgarde, Richard worked to expand the possibilities for cultural debate within the constraints imposed by the Pinochet dictatorship (1973-1990), and she has continued to offer incisive commentary about the country's transition to democracy. Well known as the founder and director of the influential journal *Revista de Critica Cultural*, based in Santiago, Richard has been central to the dissemination throughout Latin America of work by key contemporary thinkers, including Nestor Garcia Canclini, Jacques Derrida, Jean Baudrillard, Fredric Jameson, and Diamela Eltit. Her own writing provides rigorous considerations of Latin American identity, postmodernism, gender, neo-liberalism, and strategies of political and cultural resistance. In "The Insubordination of Signs" Richard theorizes the cultural reactions - particularly within the realms of visual arts, literature, and the social sciences - to the oppression of the Chilean dictatorship. She reflects on the role of memory during the military regime, particularly in the context of its human rights abuses. She considers the importance of Walter Benjamin for the theoretical self-understanding of the Latin American intellectual left, and she offers revisionary interpretations of the Chilean neo-avantgarde in terms of its relationships with the traditional left and postmodernism. Exploring the lag of Chile's new left social sciences behind its 'new scene' aesthetic and critical practices, Richard discusses the paradox that developed with the return of democracy to Chile: the energies that had set in motion the democratizing process seemed to exhaust themselves and cultural debate was attenuated in order to reduce any risk - real or imagined - of a return to authoritarianism.



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