NARRATING PAIN: THE POWER OF CATHARSIS

Richard Kearney
Introduced by Kevin Hart

In this Lecture, Professor Kearney will explore the healing function of narrative, in both fiction and history. Starting with Aristotle’s famous definition of catharsis in the Poetics, he will trace the therapeutic role of storytelling from ancient myth to the modern novel. He will also engage with recent controversies on the moral and spiritual importance of trauma testimonies.

Biography:
Richard Kearney holds the Charles B. Seelig Chair of Philosophy at Boston College. He is a Visiting Professor at University College Dublin, and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Australian Catholic University.

Professor Kearney is a prolific author in the areas of European philosophy and literature, and a public intellectual particularly in his native Ireland. He has written or edited over forty books, including two novels and a volume of poetry. Some of his recent publications include the much discussed Anatheism (Columbia, 2009), Navigations (Syracuse University Press, 2007), On Paul Ricoeur: The Owl of Minerva (Ashgate, 2005), Debates in Continental Philosophy (Fordham, 2004), and Strangers, Gods, and Monsters (Routledge, 2003).

He has served on Ireland’s Arts Council and Higher Education Authority, chaired the Irish School of Film at University College Dublin, and was involved in drafting a number of proposals for a Northern Irish peace agreement in the 1980s and 1990s.

He is a well-known contributor to European media, and has presented several series on culture and philosophy for Irish and British television.

Brisbane
14 June 2012, 6.30pm
ACU Brisbane Campus,
Lecture Theatre IB.12
1100 Nudgee Road, Banyo QLD 4014

Sydney
18 June 2012, 6pm
ACU North Sydney Campus,
Ryan Auditorium
40 Edward Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

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