

Facultad de Humanidades, Comunicación y Documentación
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Katarzyna Nowak-McNeice

Conex Research Fellow, UC3M

Californian identity in Joan Didion's prose: fiction and journalism



Wednesday, 3 May 2017, 9:00 am

Room 17.0.05

Free Entry

Joan Didion locates the roots of Californian identity in the frontier and suggests that Californian identity emerged as the frontier closed. This signifies a peculiar shortening of historical perspective that characterizes Didion's prose. It is a vision that silences some agents of history and sentences others to oblivion while attaching undue importance to the pioneering endeavor; what results is a story of a past that never was, with the loss of the illusion at its core, a loss that comes back hauntingly in every piece Didion writes. The aim of my presentation is to analyze the losses that haunt Didion's writing and the resulting melancholia pervasive in her prose, in order to understand "how much it hurts to want what's gone," as Lawrence Raab poetically puts it.