

## Questions for Discussion

### THE MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE BY HEATHER ROSE

- 1.** *The Museum of Modern Love* was inspired by Marina Abramović's performance piece *The Artist Is Present*. How has reading the novel influenced your ideas about art—and in particular performance art?
- 2.** Jane Miller is drawn to return again and again through her precious days in New York to the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). She finds it helps her process her grief. Have you ever found solace in something unexpected during times of grief or hardship?
- 3.** The novel is a hybrid of fact and fiction. Discuss how the story moves between the real and the imagined.
- 4.** We meet Arky Levin at a dark hour of his marriage. How has he contributed to the situation in which he finds himself?
- 5.** What do you think Lydia's motivations are in distancing herself from Arky? What would you have done in her shoes?
- 6.** All the characters in the novel are affected by *The Artist Is Present*. What impact do you think art can have on individuals, and on society as a whole?
- 7.** Has the book encouraged or inspired you to look more deeply into the work of Marina Abramović? What have you discovered?
- 8.** The presence of Danica Abramović presides, ghost-like, over the event at MoMA. Discuss Marina's relationship with her mother, and how Danica's mothering affected Marina. Does your mother still have a presence in your life? How might she have influenced choices you have made?
- 9.** The book is also a study of commitment—to marriage, to family, and to love, but also to creativity. Discuss commitments you have made (or would like to make) to living your life as fully as you can. Do you set aside time for creative pursuits or other hobbies? Have you done so even when there were conflicting pressures?
- 10.** Eye contact is a normal part of life, but extended eye contact—the gaze—is intimate and revealing. Try it with a friend or loved one. See what happens. Share your experience.
- 11.** Have you discovered other Australian writers? If so, which books have you most enjoyed?