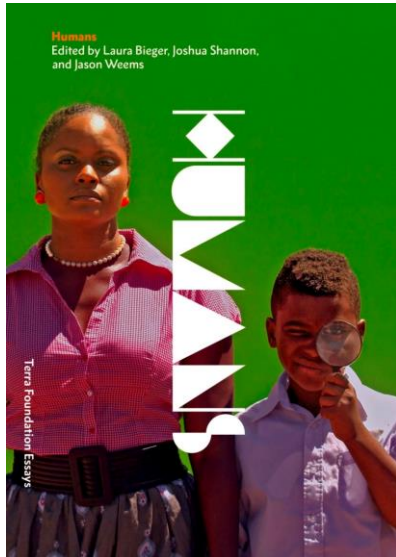


The Human Being in American Art: A Transatlantic Book Launch

Wednesday, April 20 at 9:00 PDT, 12:00 EDT, 17:00 BST, 18:00 CEST (Zoom)

We are pleased to announce an unconventional book launch celebrating the publication of *Humans*, a book about the history and future of the idea of the human being in American Art and Culture.



HUMANS

Edited by Laura Bieger, Joshua Shannon, and Jason Weems
Volume 5 of Terra Foundation Essays
Terra Foundation/University of Chicago Press, 2022

Humans are organisms, but “the human being” is a term referring to a complicated, self-contradictory, and historically evolving set of concepts and practices. *Humans* explores competing versions, constructs, and ideas of the human being that have figured prominently in the arts of the United States. These essays consider a range of artworks from the colonial period to the present, examining how they have reflected, shaped, and modeled ideas of the human in American culture and politics. The book addresses to what extent artworks have

conferred more humanity on some human beings than others, how art has shaped ideas about the relationships between humans and other beings and things, and in what ways different artistic constructions of the human being evolved, clashed, and intermingled over the course of American history. *Humans* both tells the history of a concept foundational to US civilization and proposes new means for its urgently needed rethinking.

Speakers: Caroline Arscott (Courtauld Institute of Art), Laura Bieger (University of Groningen), Alan Braddock (College of William and Mary), Larne Abse Gogarti (UCL Slade School of Fine Arts), Jessica Horton (University of Delaware), Michael Leja (University of Pennsylvania), Joshua Shannon (University of Maryland), Cherise Smith (University of Texas at Austin), and Jason Weems (University of California at Riverside)

Hosted by the Center of Ideas and Society, University of California at Riverside.

[Register](#)

Co-sponsors:

The Research Centre for the Study of Democratic Cultures and Politics, University of Groningen
The Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity, University of Maryland