

How can we critically rethink the contested notion of Humanism, a concept integral to Western thought? What is its potential today? And how does it inform, if not transform, our understanding of the human, at a time when a reconsideration of the relation to the “non-human” is essential? Reflecting on the ‘human human being’ or the ‘human being human’ (that is “*der menschliche Mensch*”, *Ökonomisch-philosophische Manuskripte*, 1844) in Karl Marx’s early writings up to current discourses on neo-, post- and trans-humanism, this workshop is interested in both the reception of Humanism as well as the often contradictory *images* and *notions* of the human created and (still) influenced by its interpretations or formulated in opposition to them.

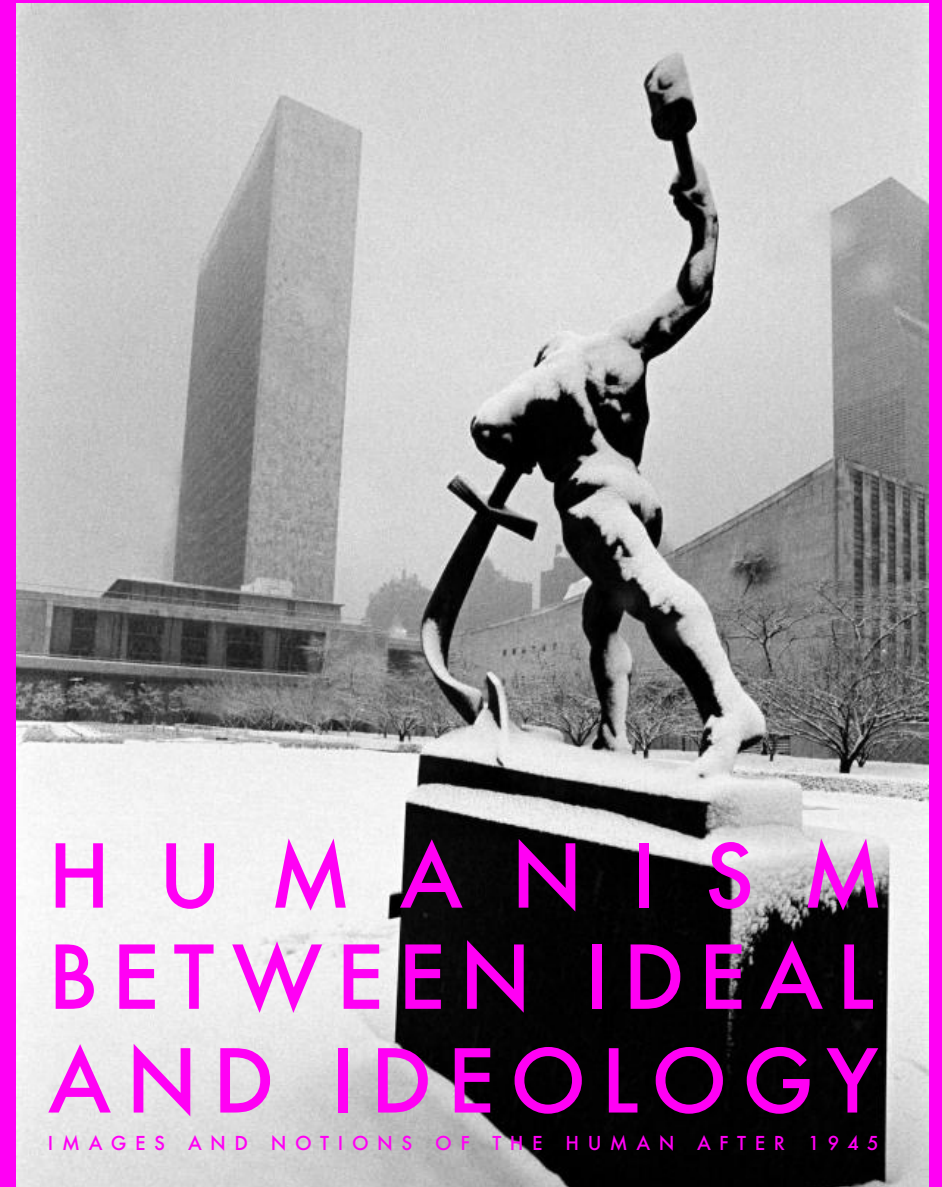
Some of the most significant and controversial contributions were written in the shadow of the darkest chapters of the twentieth century. The spectrum ranged from the interpretation of the humanist epoch – including the heroic image of the New Man – in the service of nationalism and totalitarianism as well as in acts of courageous opposition in the face of advancing inhumanity. This was true of both the fascist and communist contexts.

These questions, ambiguities and expectations brought forward by the humanist epoch, and by its evolution over time, as well as the countless mediations on Humanism as a figure of thought and a normative set of values are of unbroken topicality: To that end, we aim for a transdisciplinary discussion and seek to offer a multi-faceted look at Humanism and its reception and/or deconstruction within diverging ideological systems across different geographical areas.

VENUE

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut
Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai
Via dei Servi 51, 50122 Florence

ZOOM
Link >



HUMANISM BETWEEN IDEAL AND IDEOLOGY. IMAGES AND NOTIONS OF THE HUMAN AFTER 1945

28.11.2024

29.11.2024

DAY 1

15.00 – 15.30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Hana Gründler and Katharine Stahlbuhk

RETHINKING HUMANITY

Chair: Virginia Marano

15.30 – 16.00

Humanism Today: Human Rights Principle of Equality as a New Foundation of Humanism?
Ekaterina Yahaoui Krivenko, University of Glasgow

16.00 – 16.30

UNESCO and New Humanism in Post-War Heritage Conservation
Jiayao Jiang, University of Cambridge

BREAK

UN/OFFICIAL HUMANISM

Chair: Oliver Aas

17.00 – 17.30

Old Masters for a New Man: Humanism in Socialist Art and Visual Culture of the Fifties
Matteo Bertelé, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

17.30 – 18.00

Contesting the Human Agent. Art and Socialist Humanist Philosophy in Yugoslavia 1960–1980
Seraina Renz, Masaryk University Brno

18.00 – 18.30

Cosmic Thought in Ilya Kabakov: An Alternative to the Ideological Humanism in Soviet Unofficial Art between 1960 and 1980
Alessandra Franetovich, Università degli Studi di Firenze

18.30 – 19.00

COMMON DISCUSSION

19.30 – 20.30

DINNER (for speakers only)

21.00 – 22.00

CITY WALK

DAY 2

IDEOLOGY AND RECONSTRUCTION

Chair: Larissa Müller

9.00 – 9.30

Garin, Mattioli and the Making of the «Prosatori latini del Quattrocento»
Luca Boschetto, Università degli Studi di Firenze

9.30 – 10.00

Between Fascist Ideology and Future Hopes: Francesco Arcangeli's Humanism
Lavinia Amenduni, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte München

BREAK

QUESTIONING HUMANISM

Chair: Rosa San Carlo

10.30 – 11.00

Beyond the Individual, Towards the Communal: Reimagining Western Humanism through the Lens of Ubuntu
Adeyemi Johnson Ademowo, Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti

11.00 – 11.30

Echoes of European Conquest in the Hyperpresent Now: Land-Body Ecologies Beyond Liberal Humanism
Florian Carl, Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa

TEA TIME (for speakers only)

CRISIS AND DIVISION

Chair: Constanze Fritzsich

12.30 – 13.00

Stavrogin's Demons: The Crisis of Humanism and Russia's Religious Far-Right
Ovanes Akopyan, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

13.00 – 13.30

Humanity Divided: Global Civil War and Post-Human Partisanship in Bruno Latour and Hito Steyerl
Peter Metzel, The University of Chicago

13.30 – 14.00

FINAL DISCUSSION