



## 不止于人类 — 策展概念文章

艺术季受同名书籍的启发，旨在邀请艺术家们的创作来反思我们所处世界的后人类中心主义本质，通过他们的作品来检视物种、存在、时间和技术之间的不调和。项目试图让观众理解我们所处当下混乱而复杂的现实，并想象作为“不止于人类”的新方式。

本次项目邀请到二十余位来自不同国家与地区、社会文化背景的艺术家们为大家带来展览、表演艺术现场、电影放映、工作坊及圆桌对谈等一系列丰富多样的内容。同时积极与各学科学者、机构与观众一起去想象“不止于人类”的可能性。我们在试图颠覆由个体生物构成及生命构成原则来划定的等级制度的同时，将焦点转移到政治等级制度底层的个体与种族，也就是说，那些“不如”人类的，亚人类的，或者那些根本没有被当作人类的“非人类”。其次，学者们认为，我们不能继续视人类为完整的和可以轻易被归类的，因为自然/文化，机器/有机物和人类/机器的边界在当代社会和个体中已经无法辨认。换言之，再也没有完整的、基础的和完全的人类。相反，个体是这些二分法的各种碎片组成的混合物。

展览的概念框架借自美国人类学家罗安清（Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing），她将人类和非人类、生态学和世界更总体地视为一种“复调聚合（polyphonic assemblages）”。复调音乐是通过若干独立意义的旋律声部的结合，迫使听众分辨出独立却同时发出的旋律，并倾听它们所共同创造的和谐与不和谐的时刻。罗安清用印度尼西亚婆罗洲发现的种植方法来解释这个概念：许多作物共同在同一块田里生长——水稻、香蕉、芋头、红薯、甘蔗、棕榈和果树——农民需要留意每种作物各异的成熟时期。与此相关，“不止于人类”不仅仅是人与人的想法的聚会，也不仅仅是关注后人类主题和进程的艺术作品的集合。相反，这个展览、其中的每一件艺术作品和周末的活动形成了一个聚合，包含了所有不同的个体和主题及其观点和实践之间合作和摩擦，以及由此产生的各式各样的后人类关系和实践。

Inspired by the book of the same title, *More than Human* invites artists to reflect on and imagine a post-anthropocentric world, focusing on the frictions between species, being, time and technologies. The aim is to help the audience understand the increasingly complex and precarious nature of our world and the need to be *More than Human*.

As the title suggests, the aim of this artistic event is to challenge and exceed the definition of “human”. Through an exhibition that includes more than twenty artists, and a series of live performances, film screenings, workshops and panel talks organised by other arts practitioners and academics, *More Than Human* imagines who — as well as what — a “post-human” is. Post-humanism in this exhibition is defined in the broadest sense of the term: it is not only concerned with how individuals transcend the biogenetical limits of humans but

also exceeding all forms of normativity — subverting and expanding all forms of humanist norms and structures. Relatedly, although seemingly different, the artworks and events featured in *More Than Human* share two similarities: First, the exhibition moves away from the hierarchies that rank the lives of entities — with humans firmly at the top. Instead, *More Than Human* draws inspiration and learns from those at the bottom of this political hierarchy — namely, the sub-humans and the ones not considered humans at all, the non-humans. Second, they demonstrate that the borders between the categories and binaries that have ordered the world — nature/culture, machine/organism and human/machine — are no longer so clear-cut. In other words, there is no longer an integral, fundamental and complete being, as the Enlightenment thinking would have us believe, as all entities are assemblages of the different fragments of these binaries.

The conceptual framework of *More Than Human* is borrowed from Anna Tsing who conceives humans and non-humans, ecologies and the world more generally as “polyphonic assemblages” rather than one defined by hierarchies with humans at the top. Polyphony is music in which autonomous melodies intertwine; it forces listeners to pick out separate, simultaneous melodies and to listen for the moments of harmony and dissonance they created together. Tsing uses the example of the cultivation methods in Indonesian Borneo to explain this: many crops grew together in the same field — rice, bananas, taro, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, palms, and fruit trees — and farmers needed to attend to the varied schedules of maturation of each. For the scholar, this is a metaphor for the interdependent relationships shared between all entities. It is, therefore, impossible to disentangle and separate any being from another. *More Than Human* can also be conceived as a polyphonic assemblage. Notably, the eight-week-long event is not merely a gathering of artists and other practitioners from different parts of the world; rather, it is an assemblage of the efforts, perspectives and aspirations of the participants, organisers, partners and audience, and the *More than Human* relationships and ways of living that can emerge from them.

# More Than Human

## Participating Artists

Andrew Thomas Huang 黄卓宁/Anna Raimondo 安娜·雷蒙多/Artor Jesus Inkerö 阿托尔·耶稣·因克罗/Anna-Sophie Berger 安娜-索菲·伯格/Black Birds Creative Co. 黑鸟艺术小组/Dai Chenlian 戴陈连/Die Ge 蝶哥/ ErGao 二高/François Chaignaud 弗朗索瓦·谢诺 /Hu Wei 胡伟 /Jes Fan 范加 /Jake Elwes 杰克·埃尔维斯/Konstantin Zhukov 康斯坦丁·茹科夫/Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussens 莉莉贝斯·坤库拉·拉斯木森 / Martina Menegon 马蒂娜·梅内贡/Melanie Bonajo 梅勒妮·博纳霍/Miriam Cahn 米瑞安·卡恩 / Otay:onii 施金豆/Prinz Gholam 普林茨·古拉姆 /Tao Hui 陶辉/Zheng Bo 郑波

Exhibition dates: 27 May 2023 – 23 July 2023

Opening days: Tuesday to Sunday

Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Venue: Blanc Art Space A1

Building A1, Yard No.3, Jinghang East Road, Shunyi District, Beijing

## Human being

### NOUN

1. any individual of the genus Homo, especially a member of the species Homo sapiens.
2. a person, especially as distinguished from other animals or as representing the human species.[1]

It is clear from this definition that humans perceive themselves to be superior to — and separate from — other beings. This concept of the human is built on the idea of a liberal form of freedom: the ability to instill their desires and needs onto other entities and the world itself. [2] Humans also seemingly believe that they are free of any responsibilities for the problems facing our world today, the most urgent of which include the exploitation of other species, eradication of culture, social isolation and gender discrimination. Specifically, they believe themselves free from the need to make any substantial changes to their lives as they can solve these problems with technological solutions.

In *More Than Human*, we challenge the very idea of “humans” itself. We begin by asking who actually is a human. But in trying to figure out the “who,” we cannot neglect the “how” — the process of becoming (non-)human. How, for instance, do humans order the world? And how are the problems facing the world the result of the humanist norms and structures that order our world today? Most importantly, we look at how a post-anthropocentric world would



look like — one where human beings do not reign supreme and acknowledge their interdependency and entanglements with other species.

[1] *Dictionary.com*, s.v. "Human being(n.)". <https://dictionary.com/browse/human-being>

[2] Paul Patton, *Deleuze and the Political* (London: Routledge, 2000).

## About the project

*More Than Human* is an artistic event curated and produced by DOSSIER and in collaboration with, and supported by, EUNIC (European Union National Institutes of Culture), Blanc Art Group, Choi Centre - Cloud House and other local and international partners. *More Than Human* will open from 27 May to 23 July 2023.

The project is inspired by post-humanism: the subversion and reimagining of all forms of humanist structures. This is done through a focus on post-human subjects — beings that are rendered sub- and non-human or choose to exist within the non-human realm. By exploring their lived experiences, resilience and imagination, we seek to dismantle our anthropocentric views of humanity.

*More Than Human* will feature over twenty artists from different countries and socio-cultural backgrounds and will comprise of an exhibition and a series of live performances, panel talks, film screenings and workshops.

## DOSSIER Team

Artistic Director: Nessa Cui

Curators: Nessa Cui, Goh Wei Hao

Exhibition and Project Manager: Roy Liu

Media Coordinator: Mesh Wang

Social Media Editor: Yang Lu

Community Relation Coordinator: Zachary Chen

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