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In the annals of periodicals history there have been unique ventures when magazines made hallowed contributions to intellectual and cultural life. One can think of *Horizon* published 1958–89, a richly produced showcase of articles covering history, literature, art and architecture, to politics and science. Or, *Lapham's Quarterly*, 2008-historically grounded, thematic and thought-provoking essayist approach taking on grand themes and issues. Each was and is unique and stellar in its own way, now joined by another creatively, global, timely, innovative kindred publication. Among various thought magazines that have come and gone, the inaugural appearance of *NOËMA* proves that there is always room for another well-executed thought publication that focuses the reader on those issues that transcend time, space, knowledge, and the human condition. This, *NOËMA* accomplishes without evangelizing, or condescending. Its rewards are manifold, without pretense, or dogmatism.

Firstly, is it critical to acknowledge that *NOËMA* is the inspirational and stimulating organ published by the Berggruen Institute, based in Los Angeles, California, “established in 2010 to develop foundational ideas about how to reshape political and social institutions in the face of these great transformations. We work across cultures, disciplines and political boundaries, engaging great thinkers to develop and promote long-term answers to the biggest challenges of the 21st Century.” Featured essays in the foundational issue reflects this strikingly well, promising more of the same in future years. Its purview is transcendent in tone, harnessing not only multidisciplinary approaches to themes, but importantly, it will be “Published online throughout the year and with an annual print edition, Noema will cover the range of our institute’s concerns, from art and philosophy to renovating democratic governance, digital capitalism, geopolitics and what it means to be human in the age of AI and biotech. Our unique approach will be to step outside of the usual lanes and cross disciplines, social silos, political tribes and cultural boundaries.” This editorial proposition, if not profession,

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speaks to *NOËMA*'s meta-critical and meta-analytical approaches to the most challenging, momentous, if not consequential phenomena facing humankind.

The inaugural issue, entitled "The Great Acceleration" is devoted to a timeliest and paramount phenomenon—Covid-19. Whether an essay is directly addressing the Covid-19 pandemic or not, the collective essays entertain historical, economic, religious or philosophical, political, environmental forces, reeling from pandemic conditions and disruption. This is the reckoning that humankind must now face, address, and skillfully comprehend in the most creative, open-minded, even disruptive thinking, transcending domains of knowledge, religious traditions, economic models, social inequities, political inequities, geo-environmental exigencies, and more, that demands sustained exegetical treatments.

Because of its disruptive nature to human institutions, history, and nearly all aspects of human activity and purpose, Covid-19 is the mandrel round which these essays forge their respective insights, concerns, possible remedies, offering a suggestive reckoning with current events, irrespective of previous *de facto* positions, policies, or historical, sociocultural, or geographical constraints. Such topics as food-ways, liberal democracies, wealth and health inequalities, ethical dimensions of human comportment further frame this inaugural issue. The human species is here revealed with all its variegated problematic, including a compelling redefinition of what constitutes humanity vis-à-vis artificial intelligence. Within each essay, the ethical imperative looms large, again challenging the reader to re-calibrate one's thinking, one's preconceived notions, and received biases, and what is necessary to move on, during, and after Covid-19's attendant dislocating, disorientating, disruptiveness.

The issue's architecture provides an appreciation not only for its inaugural debut, but for its promise of similar approaches and compelling insights in future issues. The meta perspective is pivotal, blending formal knowledge with other possibilities of engaging thorny and uncomfortable societal and intellectual provocations to emerge with refreshingly emerging observations, perceptions, and seasoned reasoning. These are authored by thoughtful writers, including professors of various disciplines, writers, members of think-tank foundations and institutes, technology specialists, contributing to the primary theme of the Anthropocene/Post-Anthropocene conundrum. The time is fecund for re-evaluation, reconceiving where humanity has been, to commencing thoughtful and life-sustaining steps to a more informed and global human, nonhuman environment, where knowledge and synthetic thinking can offer newer relationships and breakthroughs.

The aesthetic quality of the issue is well conceived and richly articulated—it is a handsome volume, easily collectable. The issue contains 21 essays, excluding the introduction, with accompanying graphics and visuals. Various sizes and placement of type form as well as visuals lends a complementary salience to the essays, singularly separate and yet informing the written texts. There is much to commend this launch of an invigorating and intellectually, yet accessible journal. Kudos to the editors and to Berggruen Institute for such a significant journal as *NOËMA*, its purview equally ecumenical as it is substantial.

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