



HOPE

HATJE
CANTZ

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Aboriginal Enlightenment, 2023



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A Sister of the Abyss harnessing a storm, 2023



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Orbital Satellite Workers, 2023



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Spaceship in orbit above Planet Hope, 2023



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Spaceship Earth 2.0, 2023



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Floating Ocean Colony, 2023



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Welcome to Planet Hope, 2023



Museion

HOPE

An anthology of critical texts on hope
and futures in post-pandemic times.

Eine Anthologie kritischer Texte über
Hoffnung und Zukünfte in Zeiten nach
der Pandemie.

Un'antologia di testi critici su speranza
e futuri in tempi post-pandemici.

Hatje Cantz

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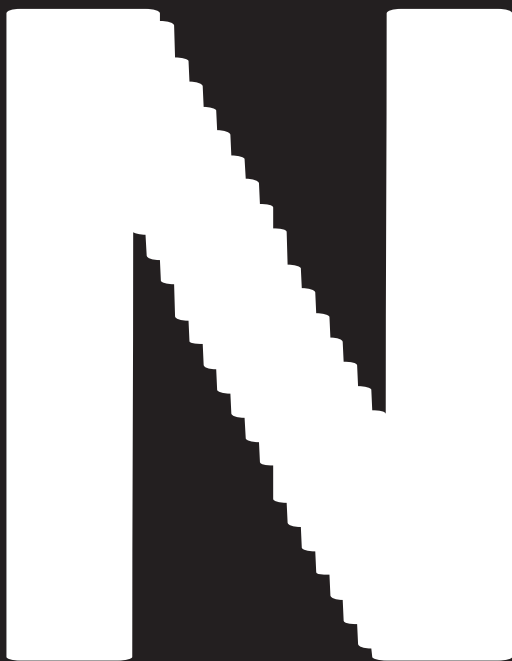
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Bart van der Heide

FOREWORD

On May 5, 2023, a historic event occurred, catching many of us by surprise. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, announced, “It is therefore with *great hope* that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency.” As he spoke, Ghebreyesus reflected on the profound changes that had unfolded over the past three years. COVID-19 had laid bare political fault lines within and between nations, eroded trust among people, governments, and institutions, and thrust millions into the depths of poverty.

It is no secret that the pandemic exposed the embedded inequalities and vulnerabilities of a post-Fordist globalized world. In this context, Ghebreyesus’s proclamation of “great hope” can only be understood symbolically rather than literally. At first, the idea of a “return to life as we knew it” may bring comfort in the face of ongoing uncertainty, but it falls short as a measure of social progress and innovation in our current reality.

The concept of hope and its application have always been riddled with contradictions that can be traced back to Greek mythology. By the time the unfortunate Pandora closed her ominous box, she had already released every imaginable evil on humanity: sickness, suffering, disease, war, greed, jealousy, and hard labor. The only one she managed to keep trapped inside was hope. This raises the question of why hope was even in the box in the first place. Does its containment benefit humanity, or does it perpetuate our suffering? How can we effectively harness hope at a time of growing hopelessness?

The *TECHNO HUMANITIES* research project at the Museion has placed particular emphasis on understanding the impacts of COVID-19, as it was initiated in the midst of the global lockdowns. But rather than adopting a dystopian view of the future, the project chose to explore existing subcultural practices that were overlooked in a pre-pandemic world. This shift in perspective shone a spotlight on club culture as a model for social coexistence and inclusive world-building. During the pandemic, it became evident that clubs were vital for the well-being of freelancers, who have constituted a significant portion of the post-industrial workforce since the 1980s. Freelancers face immense pressure to be productive, and the club provides a crucial space for them to practice the release of stress, mental regeneration, and collective solidarity. It is therefore not surprising that the prolonged closure of clubs led to an increase in mental health issues and substance abuse, especially among this group of workers. Work and release, or the output and input of energy, had become detached to