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Fore, Devin. **Realism after modernism: the rehumanization of art and literature**. MIT, 2012. 404p index afp ISBN 9780262017718, \$34.95

In this significant contribution to the study of art and literature during the period between the two world wars, Fore (German, Princeton) argues convincingly that for the artists he examines, and many of their contemporaries, the return to realism was not a regression but rather part of a new aesthetic practice that rethought space, time, and signification and reconceptualized the human. The author focuses his analysis on the formal aspects of the photographic practice of László Moholy-Nagy; industrial novels by Reger, Jung, and Brecht; Brecht's "social realist" dramas; Carl Einstein's autobiographical *Bebuquin II*, and John Heartfield's post-Dada work. His analysis reveals that, although these artists "rehumanize" aesthetic practice, the subject constructed by the works is not the autonomous individual bourgeois subject but is rather a decentered and de-individualized human whose existence is threatened by social and economic forces. Fore's command of relevant Russian material enriches his study. Furthermore, he deftly brings the material into dialogue with current theoretical and philosophical concerns; this enhances his interpretations and also establishes the relevance of this work for debates on human nature in the digital age. This is an excellent work of scholarship that merits considerable attention. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

--R. Bledsoe, Georgia Regents University

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