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Nota di contenuto	Part 1: Institutions of Life -- Chapter 1. Bio-Poetics and the Dynamic Multiplicity of Bios: How Literature Challenges the Politics, Economics and Sciences of Life (Vittoria Borsò) -- Chapter 2. Institution and Life as an Institution: Uterus: Mother's Body, Father's Right (Life and Norm) (Petar Bojani) -- Chapter 3. Towards a Poetics of Worldlessness: Hannah Arendt and the Limits of Human Action (Roland Végs) -- PART 2: Anthropology, Performativity, And Language -- Chapter 4. Man and Other Political Animals in Aristotle (Attila Simon) -- Chapter 5. Is There an Essential Convergence Between Signification and Animals? On the Truth and Lying of Animal Names in a Nietzschean Sense (Hajnalka Halász) -- Chapter 6. Noble Promises: Performativity and Physiology in Nietzsche (Csongor Lrincz) -- Chapter 7. Austin's Animals (Zoltán Kulcsár-Szabó) -- Chapter 8. Self-interpreting Language Animal: Charles Taylor's Anthropology (Csaba Olay) -- Part 3: Anthrozoology, Ethics, And Language -- Bio-Aesthetics -- Chapter 9. The Theriomorphic Face (Georg Witte) -- Chapter 10. 'Step by step into ever greater decadence': Discourses of Life and Metamorphic Anthropology (Márió Z. Nemes) -- Chapter 11. Bio-Aesthetics: The Production of Life

in Contemporary Art (Jessica Ullrich) -- Part 4: Biopoetics, Zoopoetics, Biophilology -- Chapter 12. Io's Writing: Human and Animal in the Prison-House of Fiction (Ábel Tamás) -- Chapter 13. 'Lizard on a sunlit stone': Lrinc Szabó and the Biopoetical Beginnings of Modern Poetry (Ern Kulcsár Szabó) -- Chapter 14. Of Mice and Men: Dissolution and Reconstruction of 'Nature's Larger Scheme': Burns, Mészöly, Kertész (Tamás Lénárt) -- Chapter 15. Towards a Literary Entomology: Arthropods and Humans in William H. Gass (Gábor Tamás Molnár) -- Chapter 16. Biophilology and the Metabolism of Literature (Susanne Strätling).

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### Sommario/riassunto

This book offers innovative investigations of the concept of life in art and in theory. It features essays that explore biopoetics and look at how insights from the natural sciences shape research within the humanities. Since literature, works of art, and other cultural products decisively shape our ideas of what it means to be human, the contributors to this volume examine the question of what literature, literary and cultural criticism, and philosophy contribute to the distinctions (or non-distinctions) between human, animal, and vegetal existence. Coverage combines different methodological aspects and addresses a wide field of comparative literary studies. The essays consider the question of language (as a distinctive feature of human existence) in a number of different contexts, which range from Aristotle's works, through several historical layers of the philosophical discourse on the origins of speech, to modern anthropology, and 20th century continental philosophy. In addition, the volume includes concrete case studies to the current post-humanism debate and provides literary, art historian, and philosophical perspectives on animal studies. The historical multiplicity of the various cultural representations of biological existence (be that human, animal, vegetal, or mixed) might serve as a productive foundation for discussing the nature and forms of literature's critical contributions to our understanding of these fundamental categories. This volume opens up this subject to students and scholars of literature, art, philosophy, ethics, and cultural studies, and to anyone with a theoretical interest in the questions of life.

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