Record Nr. UNINA9910454115803321 Autore Carlson Thomas A Titolo The indiscrete image [[electronic resource]]: infinitude & creation of the human / / Thomas A. Carlson Chicago, III., : University of Chicago Press, 2008 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-06968-3 9786612069680 0-226-09317-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (263 p.) Collana Religion and postmodernism 218 Disciplina Theological anthropology - Christianity Soggetti Philosophical anthropology Negative theology Postmodernism - Religious aspects - Christianity Technology - Religious aspects - Christianity Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Materiale a stampa **Formato** Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 217-231) and indexes. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Opening -- 1. Of God or a Salamander: The Creative Human as Indiscrete Image -- 2. "I am": Technological Modernity, Theological Tradition, and the Human in Question -- 3. The Living Image: Infinitude, Unknowing, and Creative Capacity in Mystical Anthropology -- 4. Of the Indefinite Human: Religion and the Nature of Technological Culture -- 5. Here Comes Everybody: Technopoetics and Mystical Tradition in Joyce -- 6. To Inherit: The Birth of Possible Worlds -- Closing -- Bibliography --Index Sommario/riassunto Humanity's creative capacity has never been more unsettling than it is at our current moment, when it has ushered us into new technological worlds that challenge the very definition of "the human." Those anxious to safeguard the human against techno-scientific threats often appeal to religious traditions to protect the place and dignity of the human. But how well do we understand both theological tradition and today's

technological culture? In The Indiscrete Image, Thomas A. Carlson

challenges our common ideas about both, arguing instead that it may be humanity's final lack of definition that first enables, and calls for, human creativity and its correlates-including technology, tradition, and their inextricable interplay within religious existence. Framed in response to Martin Heidegger's influential account of the relation between technological modernity and theological tradition, The Indiscrete Image builds an understanding of creativity as conditioned by insurmountable unknowing and incalculable possibility through alternative readings of Christian theological tradition and technological culture-and the surprising resonance between these two. Carlson concludes that the always ongoing work of world creation, tied essentially to human self-creation, implies neither an idol's closure nor an icon's transcendence, but the "indiscrete image" whose love makes possible-by keeping open-both the human and its world.