



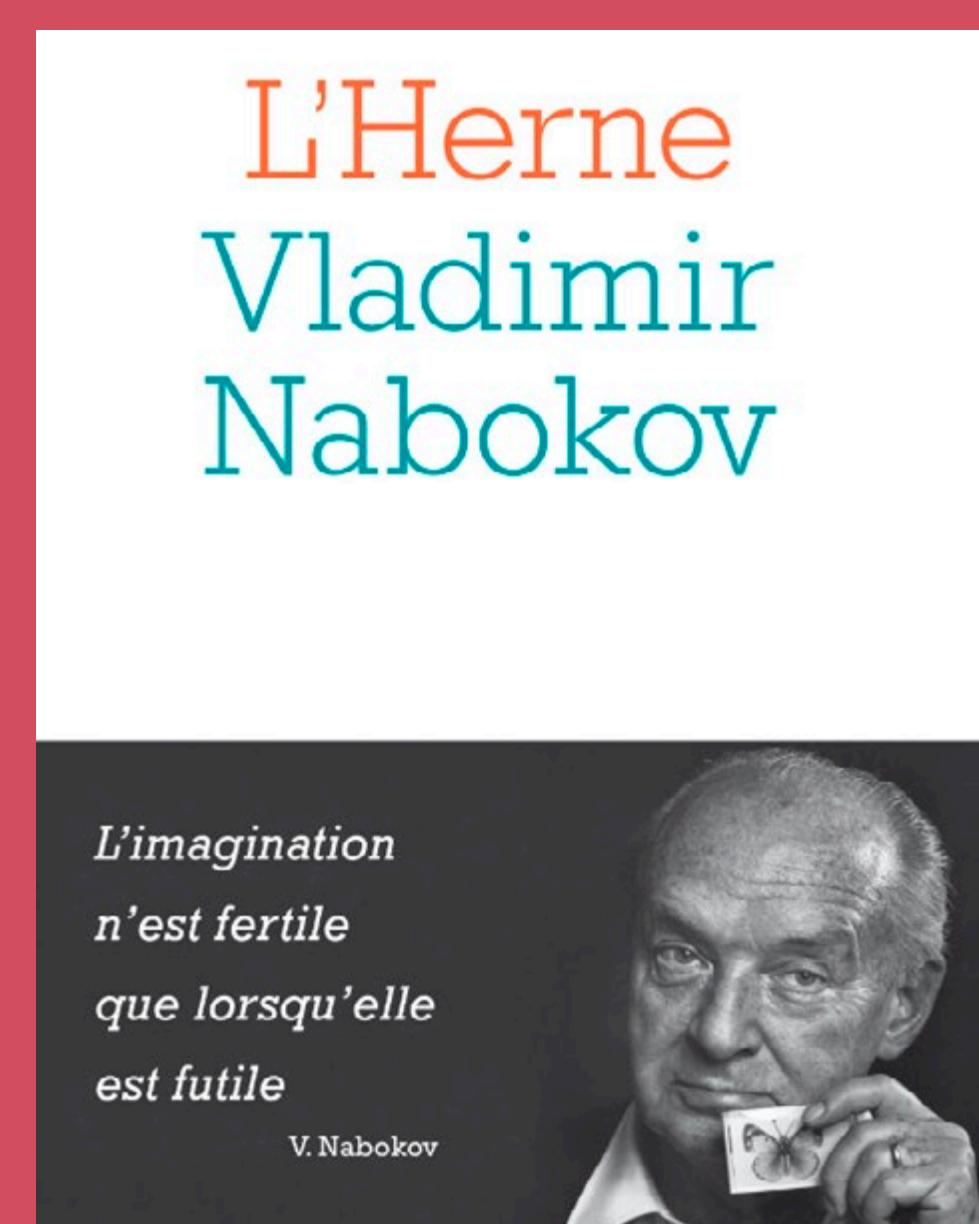
Monica Manolescu

USIAS Marc Bloch Chair (2024-2026)



Monica Manolescu is professor of 20th century and contemporary American literature and art at the University of Strasbourg. She is a specialist on the Russian-American writer Vladimir Nabokov. Her research has pioneered new ways of understanding the dialogue between literature and art in the United States, in connection to representations of geography and cartography. She has been awarded the Marc Bloch Chair in the social sciences and humanities at the University of Strasbourg Institute for Advanced Study (USIAS) for the period 2024-2026, a position which was created in 2022 to recognize Strasbourg-based researchers who have made an exceptional contribution to their field.

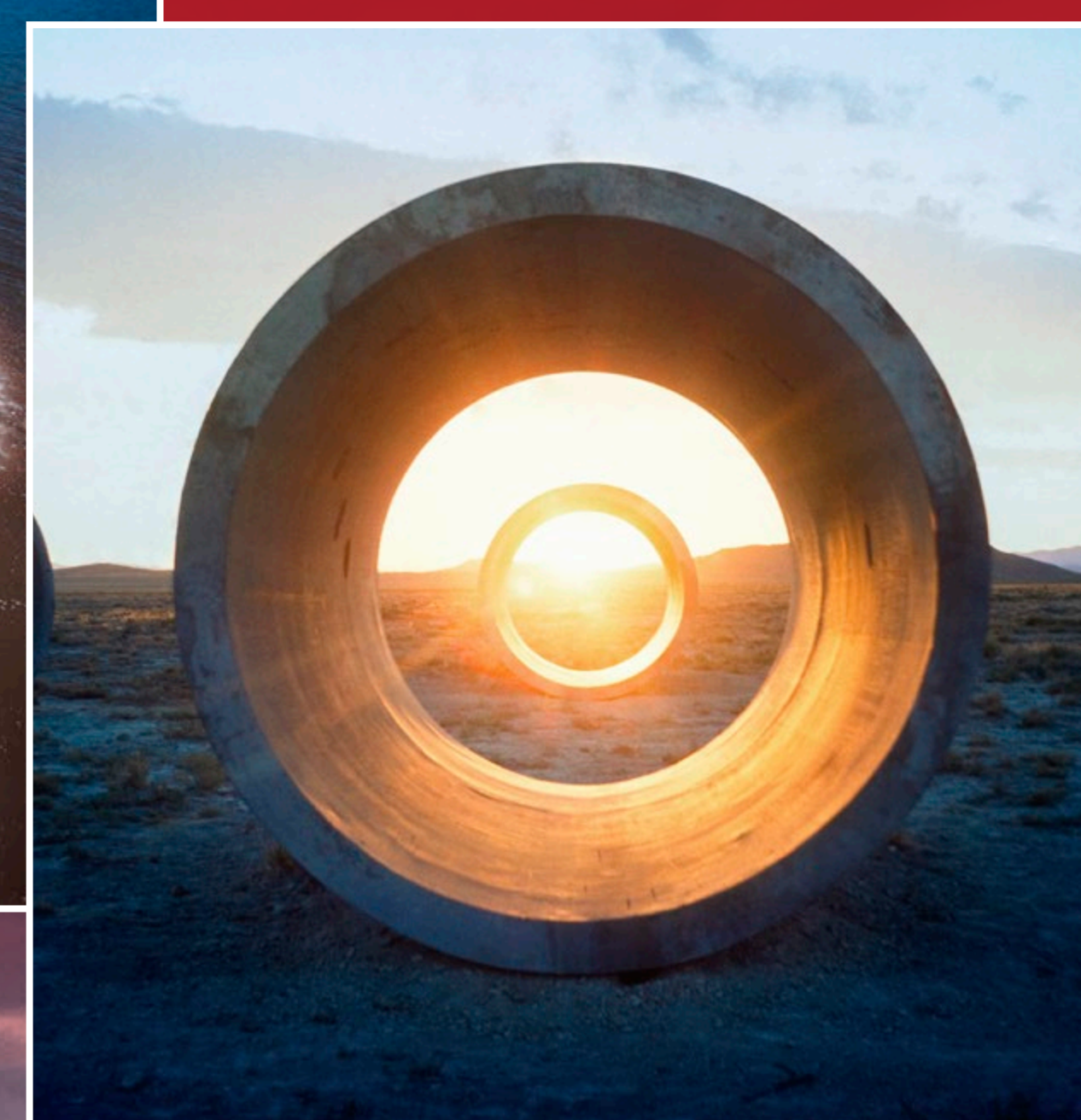
"As a trilingual researcher, I'm interested in multilingual writers and frontier artists who are difficult to categorise, like Nabokov, whose liminal position is between the Russian, European and American literary traditions. My research on literature and art similarly straddles distinct disciplines and modes of expression."



She co-edited the volume devoted to Vladimir Nabokov in the prestigious *Cahiers de l'Herne* collection, which highlights the author's relevance to the political and ethical issues of the 21st century. Her work in the Nabokov archives in New York led to the first publication of the diary of Nabokov's wife, Véra, entitled *Hurricane Lolita*, in 2023. Its impact greatly contributed to the public debate about the significance and legacy of *Lolita*.

"While our ways of doing research have become highly specialized, certain objects of study and cultural figures resist the constraints of a single approach. They invite us to follow their hybrid dynamics, offering a lesson in ethics about the importance and inherent value of otherness, a lesson that our societies still need to hear in the 21st century."

Monica Manolescu also works on contemporary American fiction, identifying innovative writers whom she actively promotes in France together with the members of the research network LILAC (*Laboratoire inter-universitaire de littérature américaine contemporaine*).

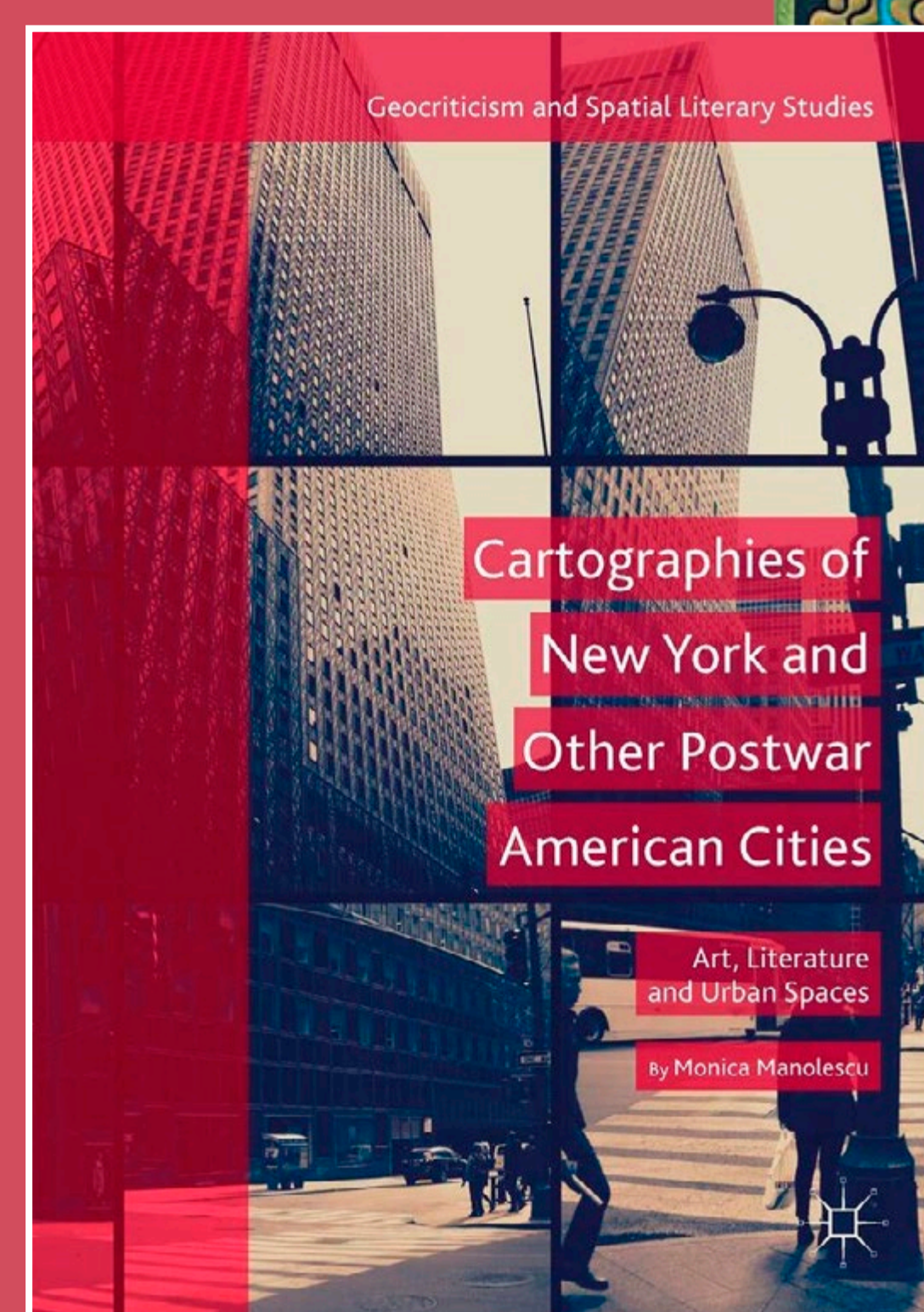


"With their rigor and imagination, the writers and artists I study invite us to think about the ethical, technological and ecological challenges of their time and of the present. While they cannot solve our problems, they can raise our awareness of the latter and the world around us."



Linda Gass, *Wetlands Dream*, 2006.

Transcending boundaries is an important feature of her work, both in terms of the phenomena she studies and of her own approach. Over the past ten years, she has broadened her research to include post-1960 American art, motivated by the rich literary activity of American artists of this period, who associate the writing of texts with sculptures, performances and geographical maps. Her current research project examines the links between literature and Land Art, a type of art that emerged in the late 1960s, in which artists left the institutional spaces of museums to create works in marginal spaces, in connection with the environment, and embraced early ecological approaches to the land.



The USIAS Marc Bloch Chair was created in 2022 for Strasbourg-based researchers who have made an exceptional contribution to their field. The Chair is named in honour of Marc Bloch (1886-1944), a French historian who was a professor of medieval history at the University of Strasbourg from 1921-1936. Co-founder of the historical journal "Annales", he was known for his work on comparative and economic history, and his interest in interdisciplinarity.



www.usias.fr/en



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