

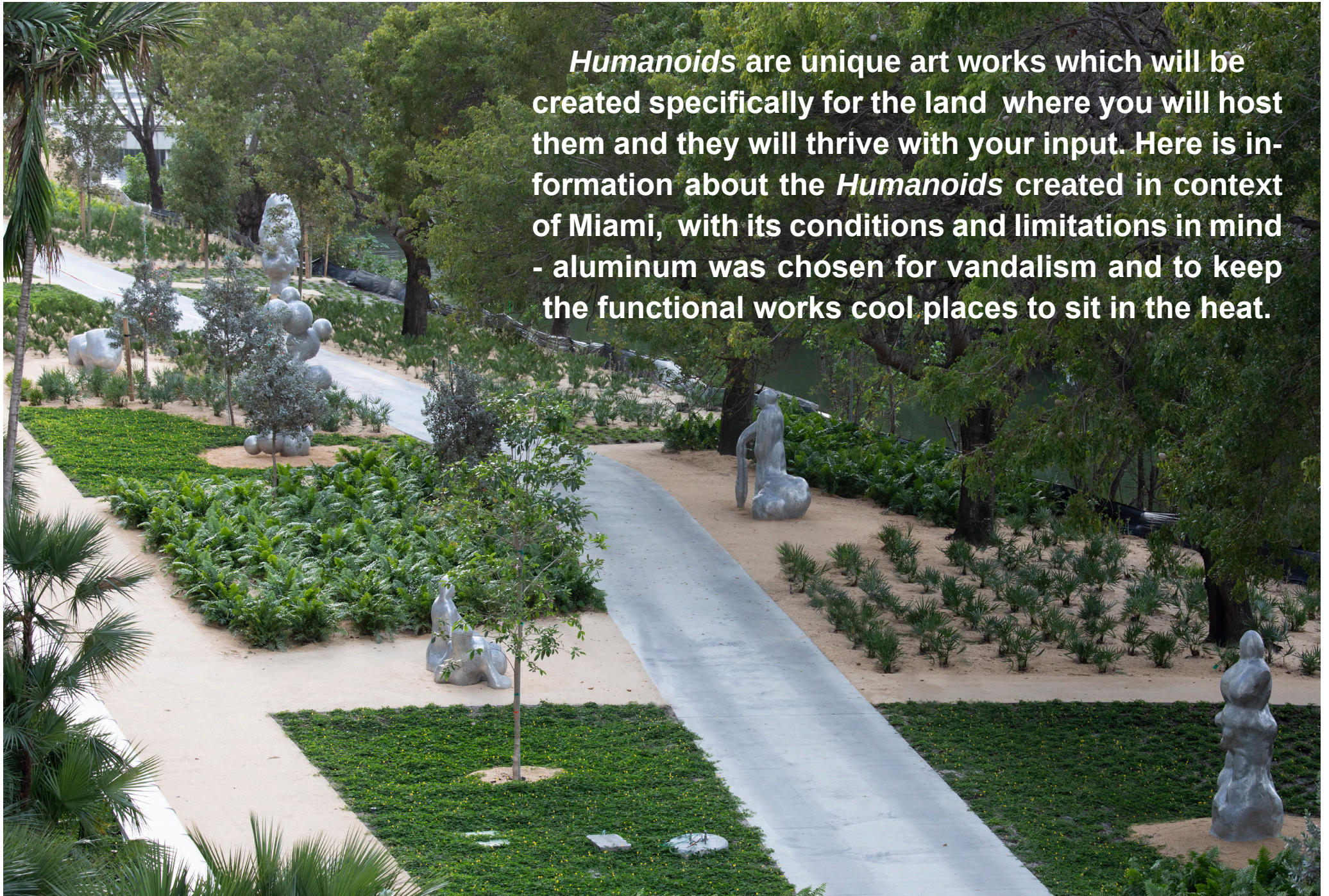
Atelier Van Lieshout

Humanoids

Joep van Lieshout: “*Humanoids* invite people to see the human soul in natural and manmade objects”



Humanoids are unique art works which will be created specifically for the land where you will host them and they will thrive with your input. Here is information about the *Humanoids* created in context of Miami, with its conditions and limitations in mind - aluminum was chosen for vandalism and to keep the functional works cool places to sit in the heat.



HUMANOIDS

They look familiar, but aren't quite human. The *Humanoids* have recognisable yet blurred features that suggest an early sidestep from the path of human evolution, bringing us closer to our own origin and essence. They invite active engagement, fusing function with fiction.

Joep van Lieshout started making the *Humanoids* in 2015, after a lengthy period of creating utilitarian design, installations and abstract sculptures that dealt with mobility, autonomy and sovereignty. The wish to focus on the central and unifying factor in these works – man himself – inspired a shift to figuration. The first figurative works named *AVL Men* (1999), were stark archetypal figures, almost like 3D pictograms. They increasingly grew more organic, with smooth skin and morphed extremities, like the group permanently on display at the Miami Beach Convention Center in Collins Canal Park. They look like heaps of coagulated lava, from the earth's core, spewed out by the elemental forces of nature.

Humanoids are part of Van Lieshout's ongoing fascination with man, machine and humanity. They appear as abstract figures, which use the park and the natural environment as their habitat, formulating a subtle statement about our relationship to nature and our origins. The sculptures are placed throughout the park, along the canal and amidst the land and the trees invite visitors to engage, stimulate social interaction and contemplation, whether it be to use them as rendezvous spots, places to remember, sketch, write, think or talk.



CARETAKERS

Compassion is a typically human emotion. It allows us to care for each other, take pity on the unfortunate, nurse the ill and console the sad. It's also a classic theme in art history. Empathy is also an ongoing theme in Joep van Lieshout's work and has often returned to this theme, sometimes placing caretakers in dystopian and utopian contexts as a hopeful beacon of empathy and selflessness. They represent what's best in mankind and what sets them apart from animals.

Casted aluminium

185 x 100 x 120 cm
73 x 39 x 47 inch



M O T H E R V E N U S

The earliest human artworks were fertility statues celebrating life, love and prosperity. The oldest on record are the *Venus* of Hohle Fels and the *Venus* of Willendorf, believed to date back some 30,000 years. These depictions of women have exaggerated hips and breasts, stressing their reproductive strength. Joep van Lieshout's *Mother Venus* is fused with her baby in a depiction of human connection and motherly love.

"In this *Mother Venus* a child and mother are fused as one."
- Joep van Lieshout

Casted aluminium

100 x 75 x 200 cm
39 x 30 x 79 inch



H A N D

Hands are not only used to give, take, hit, squeeze, dig and reach out, but also to communicate. In Joep van Lieshout's vision the hand becomes a symbol for care or the invisible force controlling the world and its inhabitants.

"A hand that takes care of us or the invisible hand that controls the world and its inhabitants. "

- Joep van Lieshout

Casted aluminium

270 x 175 x 140 cm
106 x 69 x 55 inch



The oldest known dog burial dates back to 14,200 years ago, suggesting that - by that time - dogs were firmly installed as man's best friend. Joep van Lieshout pays homage to man's best friend and eternal companion: a doggy.

Casted aluminium

300 x 100 x 100 cm
118 x 39 x 39 inch

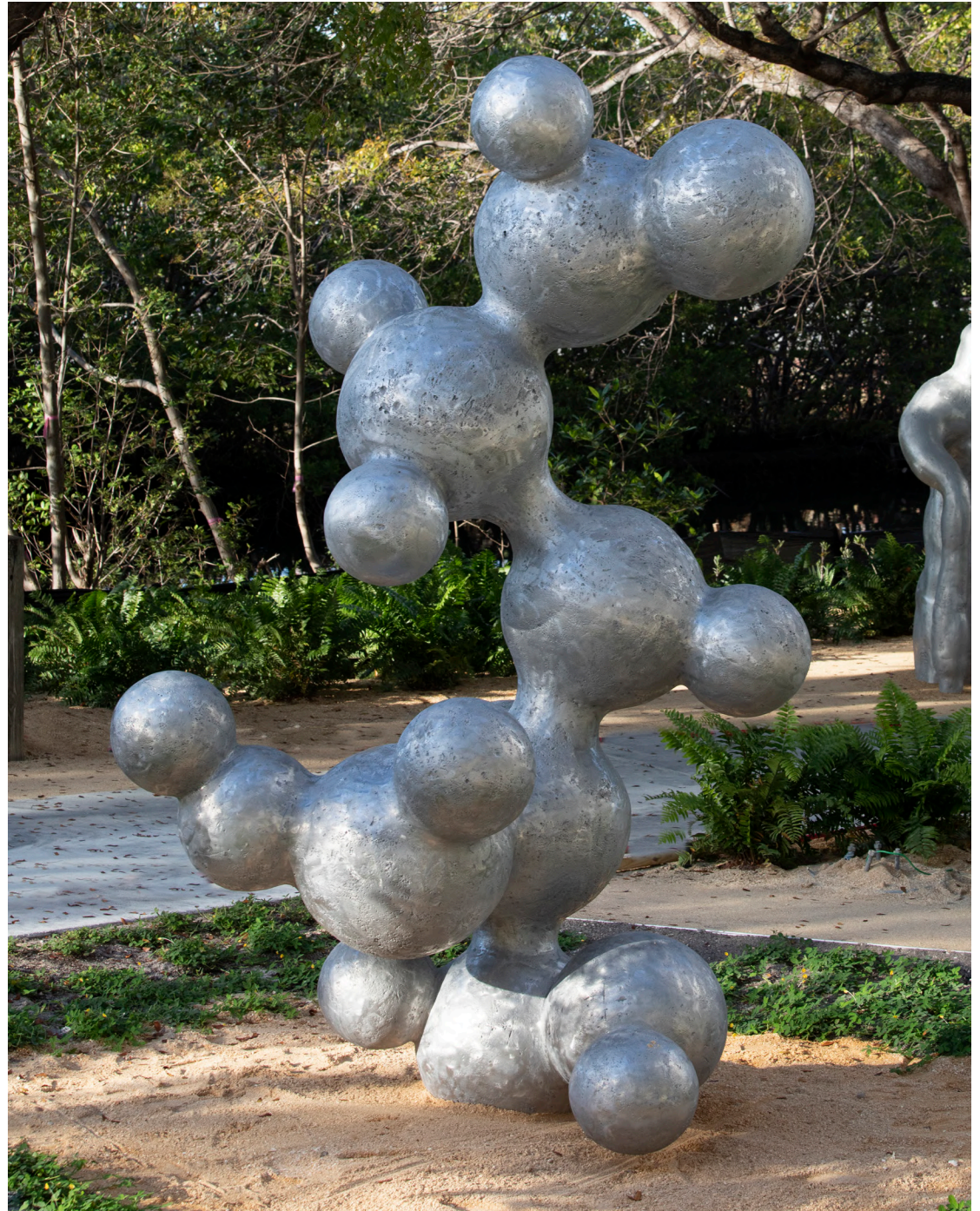


B E G I N N I N G O F E V E R Y T H I N G

The Beginning of Everything represents Glucose ($C_6H_{12}O_6$), the primary source of energy for human life. It is created by plants during photosynthesis where sunlight transforms water and carbon dioxide into sugar. Glucose is the fuel for our body, muscles and brain. Energy is the vital force which drives our world, brings it its color, its joy, its vibrancy, its life. It is literally 'the beginning of everything'.

Casted aluminium

100 x 140 x 275 cm
39 x 55 x 108 inch



T O G E T H E R

Man is curious by nature and is constantly exploring the world around him, trying to understand and to improve it. Through domestication the natural environment is brought into the human realm to the point of fusing with humanity. As the saying goes, with power and control comes responsibility. Man has to take care of his world, the environment, climate and his domesticated animals, whether to employ them either as labor or food. *Together* is Joep van Lieshout's sculptural love letter to a world in which animals and humans are fully intertwined with nature, we are one.

Casted aluminium

300 x 125 x 220 cm
118 x 49 x 87 inch



M U L T I F A C E

This abstract sculpture has many faces: looking to the past, the now and the future. Joep has often referred to Janus the ancient Roman god of beginnings, transitions and time. In art history Janus was depicted as having two faces, looking in opposite directions. Joep van Lieshout's *Multiface* has even more eyes, mouths and noses, providing it with a 360 degree perspective. The biomorphic portrait questions the many faces of man, or society.

Casted aluminium

80 x 140 x 250 cm
32 x 55 x 98 inch



9 9 %

99 % is an imaginary molecule that combines the atoms that make up 99 % of the human body. These atoms such as Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Calcium, Nitrogen and Phosphorus, are put together to form a sculptural figure that is standing firm, is elegant and speaks to our imagination. "This is playful set of atoms is a human" This abstract portrait of humanity also questions what we are, what composition makes us human.

Casted aluminium

130 x 120 x 275 cm
51 x 47 x 108 inch



PRIMITIVIST

Man and his first invention: the club. It was the first of many tools to improve life and change the way we live, think and act. As relatively vulnerable creatures, humans had to be smart to increase their chances of survival. Among the earliest tools were clubs and palstaves. Great for hunting, digging and cutting roots, but these primitive tools were soon also used as weapons against other humans. The club was followed by the plow, wheel, steam engine and nowadays genetic manipulation and big data. *Primitivist* reflects questions that are omnipresent in Joep van Lieshout's work and deal with evolution, technology and the way progress impacts human life and nature. Does technological advancement help or hinder us? Should we continue rushing towards the future or return to a more primitive time?

Casted aluminium

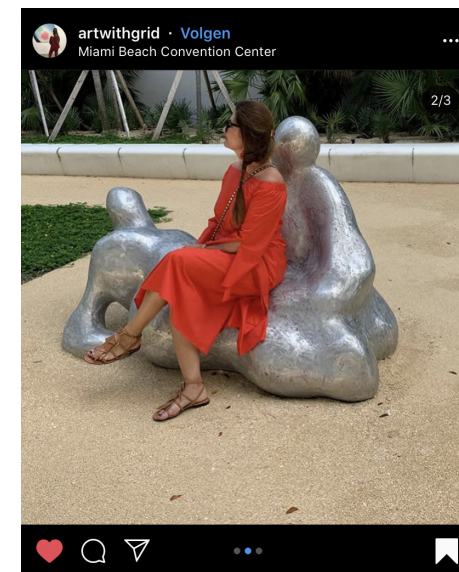
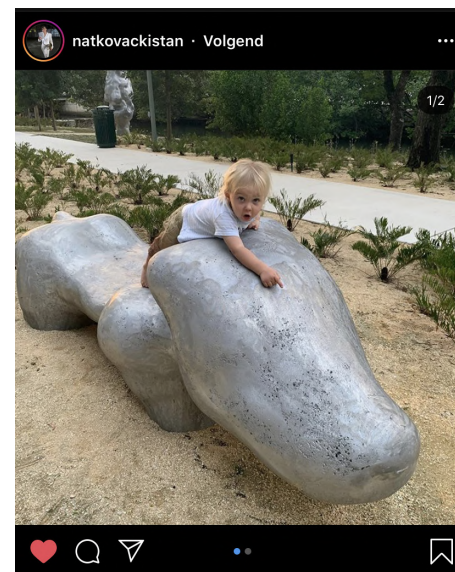
200 x 110 x 175 cm
79 x 43 x 46 inch



FUNCTIONAL SCULPTURE



H U M A N S L O V E H U M A N O I D S



ATELIER VAN LIESHOUT

Atelier Van Lieshout has vast experience with art in the public space and relishes the challenges that accompany the process. For any public art commission, Atelier Van Lieshout works in close collaboration with the commissioner and local authorities that deal with art, safety, durability and the maintenance of public facilities. In the case of the *Humanoids*, this was with a variety of Miami's Dade's departments.

Atelier Van Lieshout is used to working with and in challenging environments and has many different solutions in its roster. The sculptures in Miami are placed at a very difficult location with regular flooding and a salt sea breeze that can cause corrosion with a neighboring school in close proximity. In consultation with the appointed officials, studies were made to determine the fixation and foundation of the pieces and the use of marine grade cast aluminium. An open and brushed finish was chosen to keep vandalism, wear and maintenance to a minimum.

Miami Beach Arts & Culture selected AVL as one of a handful of artists to create new work for the Miami Beach Convention Center. *Humanoids*, was commissioned by the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places and is now permanently installed in the Collins Canal Park.



A T E L I E R V A N L I E S H O U T

Joep van Lieshout has been working between functionality and art since the 90's, constantly inventing new material vocabulary, even working under the acronym AVL (Atelier Van Lieshout) to undermine the myth of the artistic genius. By investigating the thin line between manufacturing art and mass-producing functional objects, he blurs the boundaries between fantasy and function, between fertility and destruction. Known for immense and visionary projects, Van Lieshout gained international recognition for pioneering a practice that inverts the role of art, architecture, and design. From living sculptural installations that assert or question independence, to invented objects and thematic bodies of work that push all limits, Van Lieshout dissects and invents systems—be it society as a whole or the human body—to explore power, self-sufficiency, politics, fertility, life, and death.

Van Lieshout has been invited to lecture everywhere from the Tate to Harvard and inspired movements in art, architecture and ecology.

Long Bio [here](#)

Website Atelier Van Lieshout

Press [here](#)

Selection of Atelier Van Lieshout books

Press [here](#)

Selected press

[Frieze](#) about the exhibition *CryptoFuturist and the New Tribal Labyrinth*

[ArtNet](#) about the exhibition *CryptoFuturist and the New Tribal Labyrinth*

[CNN](#) about artwork *CasAnus*

[Wikipedia](#) about artwork *Funky bones*

[ArtNet](#) about artwork *Domestikator*

[ArtForum](#) about exhibition *The Invisible Hand*

[Wallpaper](#) about Atelier Van Lieshout

Current exhibitions

[Blast Furnace](#), Art OMI, Ghent NY, (USA)

25 May 2019 – Winter 2021

[Kunst aan de Schinkel](#), Soledad Senlle Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL)

25 July 2021 – 1 April 2022

[Oil – Beauty and Horror in the Petrol Age](#), Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg (DE)

4 September 2021 – 9 January 2022

[World Expo 2020](#), The Netherlands Pavilion, Dubai (UAE)

1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022

[Opening Exhibition](#), ROOF-A, Rotterdam (NL)

4 November 2021 – 1 May 2022

[EHBO](#), Galerie Ron Mandos, Amsterdam (NL)

13 November 2021 – 8 January 2022

Video about H u m a n o i d s

