'No trivial matter': Nietzsche's Urge for the Truth

Friedrich Nietzsche is certainly one of the most important and influential modern thinkers. Most of us have heard of famous Nietzschean tropes like the "death of God," the advent of the "super-man," the "will to power," "nihilism" or the "eternal return of the same." However, his ideas are often associated primarily with European history (and, in that context, with right-wing political movements), and less so with modern, "liberal" American culture. Few people realize that not only was Nietzsche's single most important "teacher" in fact an American author, Ralph Waldo Emerson, but that Nietzsche himself has had a vast impact on American culture, both popular and academic. This exhibit explores these mutual influences between Nietzsche and America, looking at history but also highlighting some of the "Nietzschean" ideas that still shape our common way of thinking. By doing so we will discover an "American" Nietzsche" which gives a surprising new meaning to Nietzsche's own claim of being a "prophet" of a new world, the harbinger of a "transposition of all values."

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION WITH STEPHEN ADUBATO, CURATOR: FRI, FEB 17, 2023 7:45 PM ET | FLOOR 2



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