

Reclaiming the Ecoerotic: Celebrating the Body and the Earth.

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Abstract:

This article discusses the relationship between the Western disconnection to nature and to the natural body. It challenges the Western ambivalence to dirt and the dirty body and, by extension, the out of control, erotic and 'vulgar' body. It explores various reasons for the disenchantment with dirt where the notion of dirt as disgusting and the dirty body as devalued are used to inform (mis)conceptions of race and class bias and methods of social control. Finally I show how this dirty, erotic body is directly related to the desire to control nature. Reclaiming the ecoerotic then has become a way of challenging the Western disconnection to the natural world. It is one pathway towards reconnecting with nature, not just aesthetically but sensuously, bodily. Hopefully, this re-awakening of the body-nature connection will move more people into the natural world and the Earth.

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