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. In particular it seeks to challenge the Western ambivalence to dirt and the dirty body and, by extension, the out of control, erotic and ‘wild’ body. I propose various reasons for the disenchantment with dirt where the notion of dirt as disgusting and the dirty body as degenerate has been used to inform (mis)conceptions of race and class bias and methods of social control. Finally I show how this desire to control the erotic body is directly related to the desire to control nature. Reclaiming the ecoerotic then has become a way of understanding the Western disconnection to the natural world. It is one pathway towards reconnecting with nature, not just aesthetically or sensuously, bodily. Hopefully, this re-awakening of the body-nature connection will move more people into the struggle to protect the Earth.

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