

Background

- Ecofeminism examines the shared patriarchal exploitation of women & the environment
- Both are objects of fertility, penetration & ownership
- It values interconnectivity & holism and rejects 'man v nature' dualism
- Cultural ecofeminism, in particular, stresses women's intrinsic tie to the wilderness, & the reclamation of suppressed energy & life
- Controversy exists because of the theory's essentialist (biological), apolitical, & spiritual approach

Methods

1. Read ecofeminist texts & researched the controversy surrounding the theory
2. Analyzed & reinterpreted Mary Daly's *Gyn/Ecology* by connecting ecofeminist theory with texts on human destruction
3. Bridged together opposing perspectives on the relationship between (wo)men & nature to redefine/clarify ecofeminism

"Patriarchy is itself the prevailing religion of the entire planet, and its essential message is necrophilia" ~Mary Daly

Main Sources

- *Feminism or Death* ~Francoise d'Eaubonne (1st mention of 'ecofeminism')
- *Rethinking Ecofeminist Politics* ~Janet Biehl (critique of ecofeminism)
- *Woman and Nature* ~Susan Griffin (weaponization of language)
- *Gyn/Ecology* ~Mary Daly (spiritual transcendence of oppression)
- *Rape of the Wild* ~Andree Collard (ecological violation)
- *Anatomy of Human Destructiveness* ~Erich Fromm (human society is necrophilic)
- *The Denial of Death* ~Ernest Becker (fear of death & sadism)

Analysis:

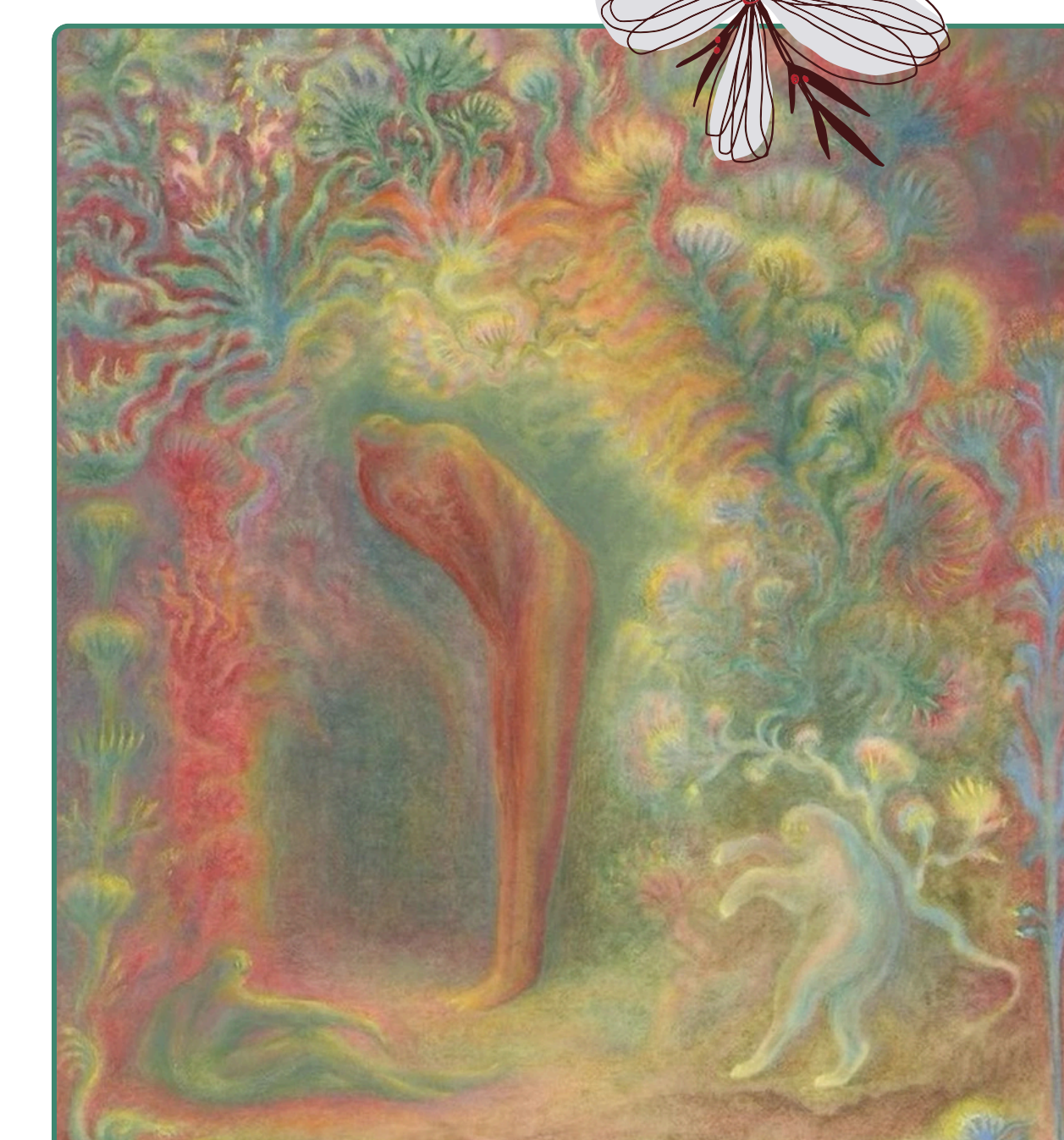
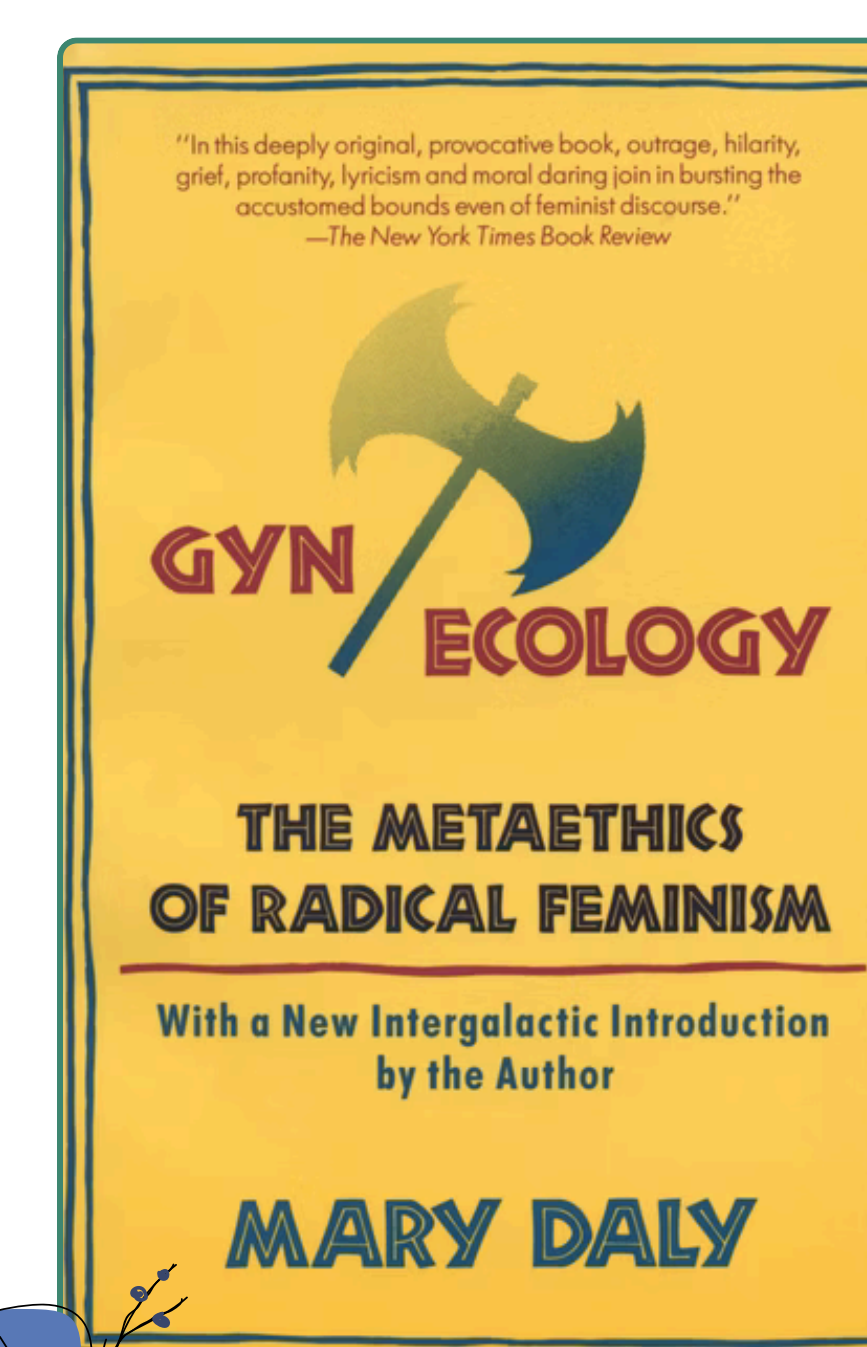
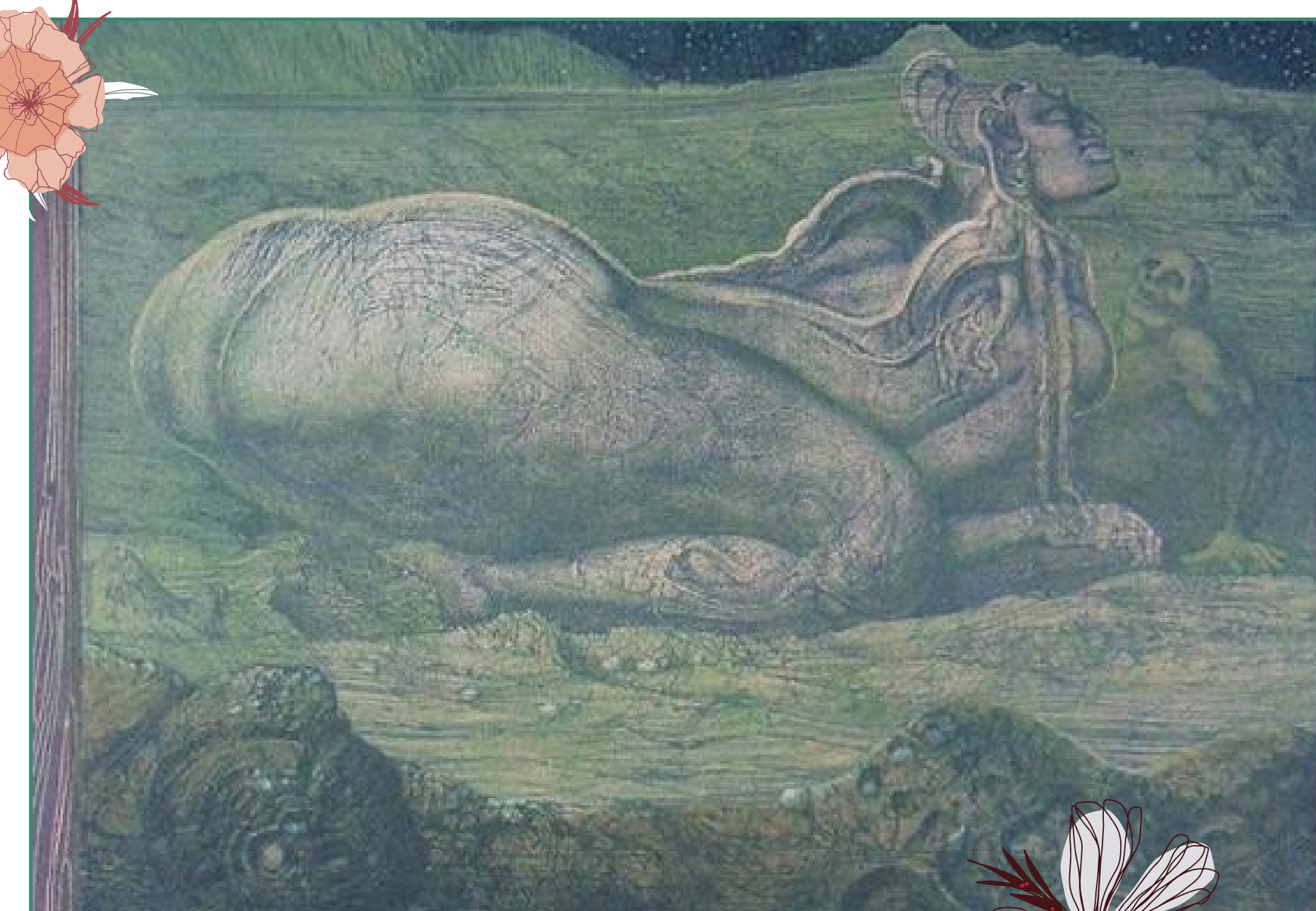
Ecofeminism & Death

How does the persistent necrophilic culture of patriarchy warrant a necessarily transcendental ecofeminist philosophy?

- Patriarchal society is death-obsessed & fixated on decay & destruction
 - Man attempts to control & inflict death due to the fear of natural processes
 - There is a harmful detachment from the organic (life & death cycle) which justifies expressions of violence
- Ex. militarism, bureaucracy, colonialism, genocide
- The reclamation of life must only exist beyond systems sustained by death

What Does Necrophilia Look Like in Practice?

- Pornography eroticizes objectification
- Deforestation values dead lumber as an exploited resource
- Industrial emissions cause climate change (death of the planet)



Conclusion

Ecofeminism is the promotion of biophilia (love of life). It is necessary to imagine the transcendence of hierarchical structures in order to escape the necrophilic culture embedded in our society. If we can reinterpret cultural ecofeminism, we can imagine a futurity in which we embrace the natural.



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