



Return of the Dark/Light Mother or New Age Armageddon? Towards a Feminist Vision of the Future

By Monica Sjöö

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Plain View Press and the Center for the Study of the Gift Economy are pleased to announce a US tour by international artist Monica Sjöö for her newest book, Return of the Dark/Light Mother or New Age Armageddon: Towards a Feminist Vision of the Future.

Sjöö, a Swedish eco-feminist and Earth mysteries artist is known both as a visual artist and as the co-author, along with Barbara Mor, of The Great Cosmic Mother: Rediscovering the Religion of the Earth. In this new book she exposes at the roots of the New Age movement a deep mistrust of Earth's life-giving wisdom which must be rediscovered if we are to survive another thousand years.

This new and revised edition of the influential and controversial book originally published by The Womens Press (titled New Age Armageddon . . .) contains expanded critiques of channeling and genetic engineering along with more than 40 photos of Sjö's paintings which place the Earth in her many forms at the center of a feminist vision for the future evolved from the integrated, wholistic, life-giving wisdom of our living Mother planet who doesn't need to be saved by spacemen who would turn Earth to light or sterilized by corporations who would own the Mother seed.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Here is a passionate expose of the danger of a New Age consciousness which denies the economic and political realities of our lives. A longtime committed feminist, activist and artist, Sjoo draws on her amazingly comprehensive research to document her conclusions which are both a gift and a warning for every human being on Mother Earth. -- *Jean Mountaingrove, co-editor of WomanSpirit magazine*

"In this awesome book, Monica Sjoo casts her brilliant and critical eye on the New Age Movement with all its delusions, contrasting it with the grounded, earth-based shamanism of ancient and present-day woman-centered cultures. One of the world's foremost visionary artists, Sjoo reminds us again and again that earth (physical matter, our bodies, the cycles of birth and death) remains sacred despite modern tendencies toward leaving the body (and the planet) behind. Instinctual, heart-opening, and gut-wrenching, this book is a deeply-felt personal journey radically shared, and illustrated with the artist's incredible paintings". -- *Vicki Noble, author of Motherpeace: A Way to the Goddess through Myth, Art and Tarot*

"Monica Sjoo is the great global Amazon, a Sweed, but belonging to all countries. She weaves the story deftly as she paints her images all from deep inspiration. She carries the word from continent to continent, her images of the Fates and Goddesses loom large like our dreams. A sister, a mother, a great soul." -- *Z Budapest, psychick, teacher and initiator, author of The Holy Book of Womens Mysteries, Grandmother Moon, Goddess in the Office, Goddess in the Bedroom, and Summoning the Fates*

"Sjoo, visual artist cum ecofeminist, provides us with a cutting critique of what has come to be known as the New Age Movement. . . . She believes that Earth is dying and that New Agers, with their focus on light, transcendence and galactic beings, are deaf to its cries. . . Money-spinning, instant spiritual gratification, and blatant exploitation of indigenous cultures lie at the heart of a movement whose heritage comes from a patriarchal, capitalist system." --*Monica Lynch, Spare Rib*

"The New Age is shown to discourage political questioning and to have little awareness of race, sex or class or even to welcome it. This is a very revealing and disturbing insight into the philosophy and background of the New Age and its so-called gurus, and a welcome questioning of it." --*A H, Openeye 3*

"As more and more people begin their search for a more spiritually fulfilling life that ties in their needs for social justice, this book could easily become a primer that will generate many questions that must be answered if we are to move forward." --*J. Antionette Johnson-Gross, Mama Bears News & Notes*

About the Author

Monica Sjoo is a radical anarcho/eco-feminist and Goddess artist, writer and thinker involved in Earth mysteries. Born in the north of Sweden in 1938, she has lived mostly in Britain since the late 1950s, and has been active in the Womens Liberation Movement since the 60s. Her paintings are inspired by journeys to, and experiences at, the Neolithic sacred sites of the ancient Great Mother, and have been exhibited throughout northern Europe and in the USA.

She is the co-author, with Barbara Mor, of the influential "The Great Cosmic Mother: Rediscovering the Religion of the Earth" (Harper and Row, San Francisco, 1987, new edition 1991). She has contributed articles to many journals and anthologies, on a wide range of issues including Goddess spirituality, womens

creativity and art, her explorations of sacred sites, the politics and philosophy of the New Age Movement, crop circles, genetic engineering, global threats to biodiversity, female genital mutilation, anarcho-feminism and pornography. Her work has appeared in British journals such as Arachne, Wood and Water, PAN, and From the Flames and in Womanspirit, Calyx and Women of Power in the USA. Many of her paintings have been used as book covers. Monica regularly gives slideshows and workshops at conferences, festivals and camps. She believes in political direct action to protect Mother Earth.

Photo by Susan Bright of Monica in her study in Bristol, in the UK. She is standing between paintings she created for sons Leif and Sean.

Users Review

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