

Gaia: Then and Now

The Mythopoetics of Climate Change



"I used to think the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation, and we scientists don't know how to do that."

James Gustave Speth, Shared Planet: Religion and Nature, BBC Radio 4 (1 Oct. 2013)



Gaia: Then and Now is a series of ARAS webinars that will be offered between January and June, 2022. The presentations will focus on our relationship to the Earth, as revealed through the study of ancient and contemporary symbolic imagery as it appears in myth, the visual arts, dance, and dramatic story telling. With widely varying but complementary perspectives, the speakers will present commentary, visual images, original videos, and engage with the online audience in interactive dialogue.

Gaia: Then and Now seeks to explore the mythopoetic ways of knowing about the nature of the Earth and the current crisis of climate change—not by putting itself in opposition to the scientific way of knowing, but rather as offering itself as a complementary way of understanding our dire situation and how we got there. This inquiry centers around the basic question: Can we find our way to a renewed sacralized reverence for the Earth in all her forms—animate and inanimate?

Register here: <https://gaiathenandnow.eventbrite.com>

Program Schedule

more detailed descriptions available at ARAS.org/gaia-project

Jules Cashford

Gaia Saturday, January 8th, 2022. 12pm EST/9am PST
Return of Gaia Sunday, January 9th, 2022. 12pm EST/9am PST

Jules Cashford, a leading mythologist, will present and discuss her two stunning films about Gaia. One focuses on Gaia of the ancient world and the second focuses on the Return of Gaia in the modern world.

Brooke Singer

Site Profile Flags and Unison, the book Thursday, February 10th 2022.
8pm EST/5pm PST

Brooke Singer will present contemporary artistic visions of our relationship to the earth in her own work and that of her colleagues.

Shoshana Fershtman

Goddesses in Pre-Patriarchal Culture Thursday, March 10th 2022. 8pm EST/5pm PST

Shoshana Fershtman will delve into the forms in which the Goddess was known in the Ancient World.

Craig San Roque and Miriam Pickard

Persephone's Heart Saturday, April 16th, 2022. 8pm EST/5pm PST
The Wake Sunday April 17th, 2022. 8pm EST/5pm PST

Craig san Roque and Miriam Pickard will present two contemporary interpretations of the fate of Persephone in the modern world.

Elisa Venezia/Dark Sky Aerial

OMEN Thursday, May 12th, 2022. 8pm EST/5pm PST

OMEN is the film of a dazzling aerial performance over the Grand Canyon that speaks of an emerging, new relationship to the Earth through dance.

Jeffrey Kiehl

Mandala as an Archetypal Portal to Engage Climate Chaos

Thursday, June 9th 2022. 8pm EST/5pm PST

By exploring natural occurring mandala imagery in the micro and macrocosm, Jeffrey Kiehl demonstrates how mythopoetic images can activate archetypal energies to bring people to action around climate change.

Images: Upper left: Statue of Gaia, Palekastro, Crete, 3rd C. B.C., Upper right: Detail from Omen by Dark Sky Aerial. Dancers suspended over the Grand Canyon, Bottom left: Demeter and Persephone: 'The Exaltation of the Flower.' Parian Marble Stele. Height: 56.50 cm. Length: 67 cm. Depth 14 cm. Dated 470-460 BC., Bottom right: Site Profile Flag #3 (Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY), Brooke Singer.