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Imagining an Everyday Nature

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Nature in environmental writing and culture today often appears as a form of refuge—for biological diversity, endangered species, and equally endangered forms of sensual, aesthetic, and spiritual life, all threatened by an increasingly destructive and all-pervasive world economic and social order. Nature is the place where we go, both imaginatively and physically, to escape from this modernity, as well as the place from which we seek to protect it. In providing this sense of refuge, though, our ideas of nature too often lead us away from where we actually are, promoting a model of

Romantic imaginative escapism and autonomous individualism that in many ways actually supports the same modern consumer order that it claims to oppose. This tendency to locate “nature” ...

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