

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION/THESIS/RESEARCH PAPER/CREATIVE PROJECT: Ecological Art: Counterculture Environmentalism in the Arts of the 1960s and 70s

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This study examines the appearance of countercultural environmentalism within artistic forms of music, literature, and Land Art sculpture during the peak years of the American counterculture in the 1960s and 70s. The work builds on scholarship that has examined countercultural environmentalism from socially and scientifically oriented perspectives and concludes that that artistic forms should be included within updated definitions of this brand of environmentalism. By utilizing a series of case studies focusing on specific artists within each of the examined artistic genres, both the influence of countercultural environmentalism on the arts and the impact of the arts on the development of this form of ecological thinking are seen, thereby indicating its overarching presence within the art world. Many also took further action outside of their artwork, using the fame they had gained to spread their counterculturally-charged messages of ecological sustainability and environmentally friendly lifestyles. In this can be seen the lasting and permanent impact of both countercultural environmentalism and the countercultural as a whole as its presence continued to be felt beyond the peak of the Sixties.