Mapping the Inner Monstress

Dr. John Edward Martin

University of North Texas Libraries

john.martin@unt.edu

Pronouns: He/His/Him

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“…when you see beauty in desolation it changes something inside you. Desolation tries to colonize you."

—Jeff VanderMeer, *Annihilation* (2014)

The Inner Monstress

Alex Garland, *Annihilation* (2018)

Marjorie Liu & Sana Takeda, *Monstress* (2015)

The Outer Monsters

Lovecraft's "cosmic fear"

- Weird fiction
- Sci-fi horror
- Postmodern gothic
- Speculative Realism

Unknowable, indifferent universe

Cosmic realities/forces beyond human perceptual, cognitive, or emotional capacity to comprehend

Misanthropic worldview that minimizes the significance of human agency

Non-human/Posthuman theory

- Cultural/philosophical posthumanism
- Eco-criticism
- Animal studies
- Monster studies

Estrangement from the physical environment as a direct result of human activity & culture

Ethical dimensions of human-nonhuman relationships

Anti-anthropocentric worldview that often questions the value of human agency

Alternate Topographies

- Bruno Latour: The agency of the nonhuman

  "The Earth has taken back all the characteristics of a full-fledged *actor*."

- Donna Haraway: The "Cthulucene" (NOT Lovecraft!) and "making kin"

  "Kin are unfamiliar (outside what we thought was family or gens), uncanny, haunting, active."

- Sara Crosby: "The Ecological Detective"

  "It does not simply lay bare a pathology. It also tries to puzzle a way out of the problem."

Hybrid Bodies

The Alien-Annihilation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFjVMuex52c

“Desolation colonizes you.”

Monstrous agencies

Thank you!

Questions? Thoughts?

Email: john.martin@unt.edu

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