

Reworlding and Making Kin in Jeff VanderMeer's *Annihilation*

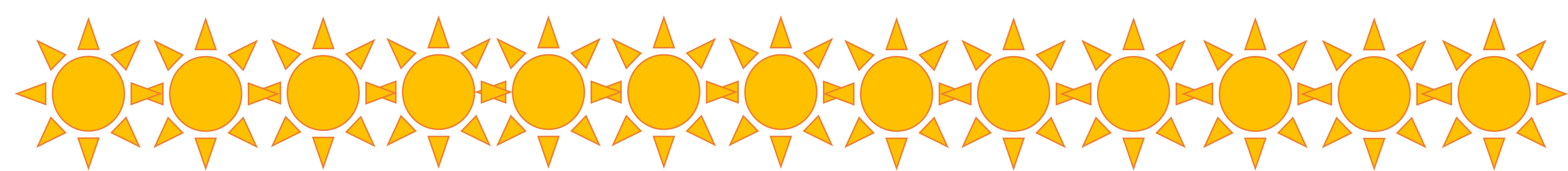
Madison Myers

Popular Culture—transforming ideology and discourse about climate change and the Anthropocene to make widespread, social change possible.



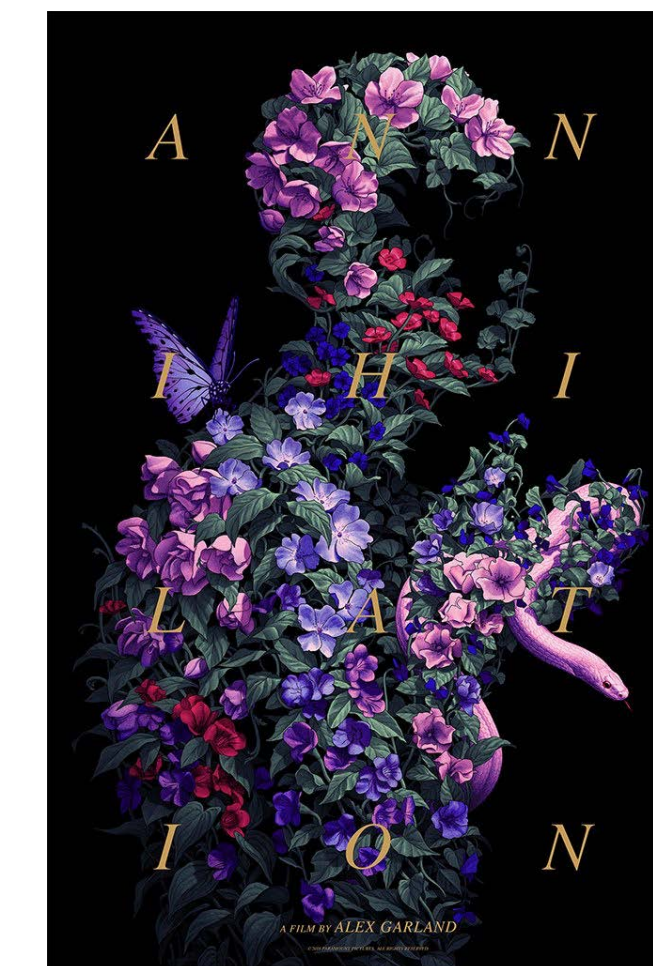
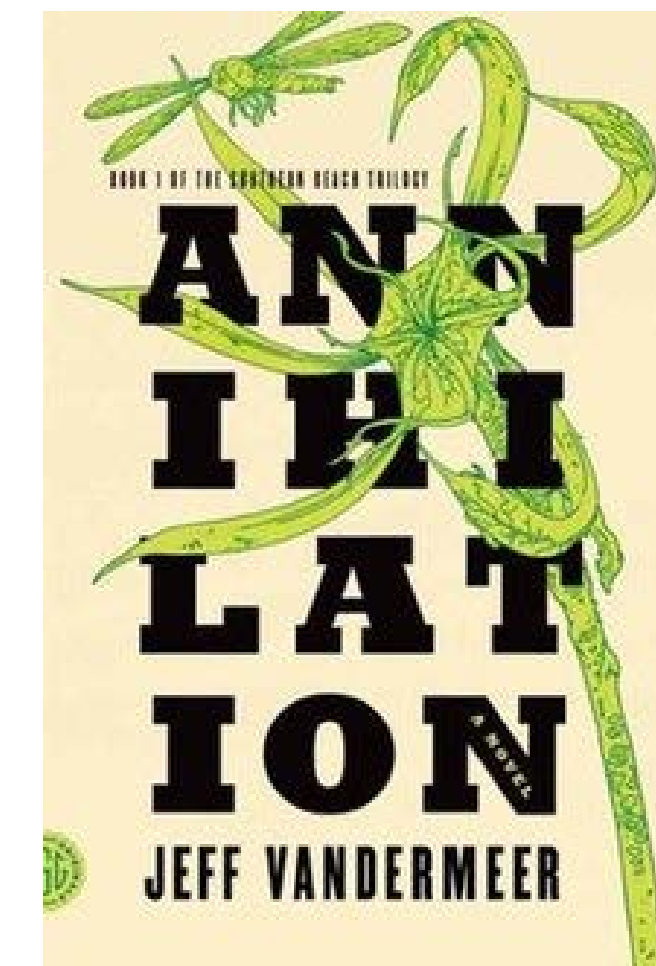
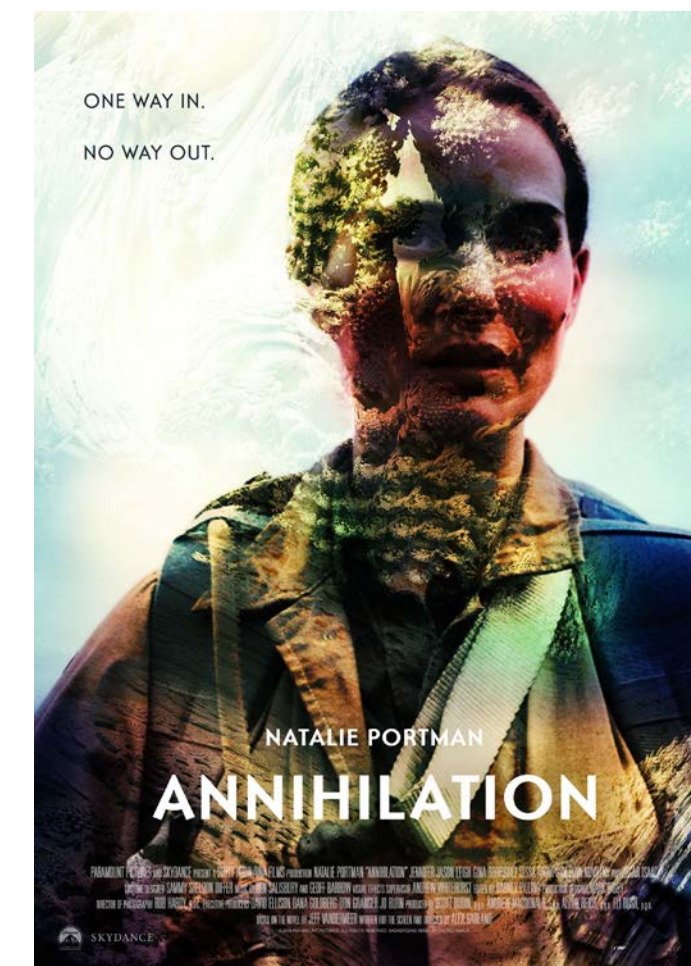
Art by John Berkley, "Welcome to the Anthropocene."

In the age of the Anthropocene, humanity desperately needs to reverse irreversible damage we have caused to the planet; however, experts from various fields disagree on the best plan for implementation.



The Environmental Humanities analyze interrelationships between human activity and the environment to address environmental crisis (TORCH).

Annihilation as film and fiction implements reworlding.



Art by Rory Kurtz, "Annihilation."

Annihilation By Jeff VanderMeer

I read *Annihilation* as reimagining human interconnectedness to other species as part of multispecies communities by:

- *Expanding ideas of kin-making
- *Creating landscape as reworlded space
- *Erasing boundaries between human and non-human
- *Utilizing mutual colonization to reposition humanity alongside nature

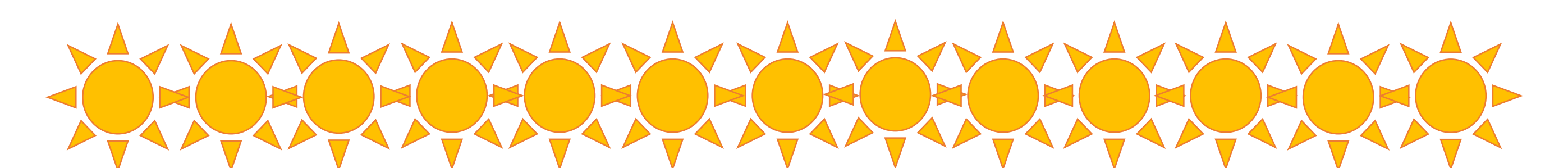


Art from *Annihilation*, the film.

Ultimately *Annihilation* demonstrates the possibility of humanity seeing itself as part of a larger multispecies community through relationship building that encompasses an ethics of care: **empathy, imagination, uncertainty and mutuality.**



My reading of *Annihilation* stems from a thorough body of theory and criticism dedicated to considering human action in the Anthropocene.



All of the technology needed to combat climate change currently exists, but society continues to practice and embody non-sustainable patterns and ideologies toward nature (Cook).

Widespread change must happen at the social level; literature and popular culture—like VanderMeer's—offers an approach toward social transformation.

References

- Cook, John. "Myth 6: There's Nothing We Can Do Anyway." *Before the Flood*, 2017. <https://www.beforetheflood.com/explore/the-deniers/fact-we-absolutely-can-solve-the-climate-crisis-today/>. Accessed 7 Nov. 2018.
- Stafford, Fiona. "Environmental Humanities." *The Oxford Research Center for Humanities*. <http://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/envirohum>. Accessed 7 Nov. 2018.
- * All book covers taken from Amazon.