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The Idea of Nature Public Lecture Series

Interdisciplinary Explorations

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4-20-2017

# 'The Ghostly Language of the Ancient Earth': The Idea of Nature in Deep Time (Flyer)

Scott Ashley  
*Newcastle University, U.K.*

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Thomas Cole (1801-1848). View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm - The Oxbow. 1836. Oil on canvas, 51 1/2 x 76 in. (130.8 x 193 cm). Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908 (08.228). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, U.S.A. Photo Credit: image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY



Interdisciplinary  
**Explorations**

# The Idea of Nature

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES  
SPRING 2017

## Thursday, April 20, 2017 • 6 PM

**FREE and Open to Public • Boise State Student Union Building, Jordan Ballroom**  
**Reception following with no-host bar and appetizers • Free parking**

For **free reception tickets** please email [ideaofnature@boisestate.edu](mailto:ideaofnature@boisestate.edu). Visit [scholarworks.boisestate.edu/ideaofnature](http://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/ideaofnature) for information about **free parking**, or to view and download lectures.



## The Ghostly Language of the Ancient Earth: The Idea of Nature in Deep Time

**Scott Ashley**

*Lecturer in Medieval History, Newcastle University, U.K.*

In 1799 William Wordsworth imagined his younger self standing beneath the rocks of his native mountains listening to the 'ghostly language of the ancient earth'. I also try to hear the echoes that come out of the deep past and decipher what we can learn from them about the entangling of the human and natural worlds and the origins of the idea of Nature.

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