

# The Natural and the Artefactual: The Implications of Deep Science and Deep Technology for Environmental Philosophy

Keekok Lee

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## The Natural and the Artefactual: The Implications of Deep Science and Deep Technology for Environmental Philosophy

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#### The Natural and the Artefactual: The Implications of Deep Science and Deep Technology for **Environmental Philosophy** Keekok Lee

In this book, philosopher Keekok Lee challenges one of the central assumptions of contemporary environmentalism: that if we could reduce or eliminate pollution we could 'save' the planet without unduly disrupting our modern, industrialized societies. Lee argues instead that the process of modernization, with its attendant emphasis on technological innovation, has fundamentally transformed 'nature' into just another manmade 'artefact.' Ultimately, what needs to be determined is if nature has value above and beyond human considerations, whether aesthetic, spiritual, or biological. This provocative book attempts to reconfigure environmental ethics, positing the existence of two separate ontological categories?the 'natural' and the 'artefactual.' Natural entities, be they organisms or inert matter, are 'morally considerable' because they possess the ontological value of independence, whereas artefacts are created by humans expressly to serve their own interests and ends.



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