



# Transactions with the World: Ecocriticism and the Environmental Sensibility of New Hollywood

By Adam O'Brien

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In their bold experimentation and bracing engagement with culture and politics, the "New Hollywood" films of the late 1960s and early 1970s are justly celebrated contributions to American cinematic history. Relatively unexplored, however, has been the profound environmental sensibility that characterized movies such as *The Wild Bunch*, *Chinatown*, and *Nashville*. This brisk and engaging study explores how many hallmarks of New Hollywood filmmaking, such as the increased reliance on location shooting and the rejection of American self-mythologizing, made the era such a vividly "grounded" cinematic moment. Synthesizing a range of narrative, aesthetic, and ecocritical theories, it offers a genuinely fresh perspective on one of the most studied periods in film history.

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#### Review

"This valuable work engages fully with the field of cinema studies and demonstrates ways of building on traditional film theory from an ecocritical perspective. The author speaks the language of film aesthetics, provides sophisticated analyses that go beyond cursory readings of plot and narrative, and directly engages with film technology and its impact on textual meaning." • **Stephen A. Rust**, University of Oregon

"This is a significant contribution to the burgeoning field of ecocinema. The analyses of individual films are all expertly positioned within the existing literature, and O'Brien makes a convincing case for rethinking New Hollywood, as a mode of production and a cultural moment, from an ecocritical perspective." • **Pietari Kääpä**, University of Stirling

#### About the Author

**Adam O'Brien** teaches film studies at the universities of Bristol and Reading. He has published articles on ecocriticism and film in a number of journals, including *Film Criticism*, *Journal of Media Practice*, and *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*.

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