

Cheryl Sourkes  
GENES AND GENESIS / INEXACT SHADOWS



## ARTIST'S STATEMENT / Cheryl Sourkes

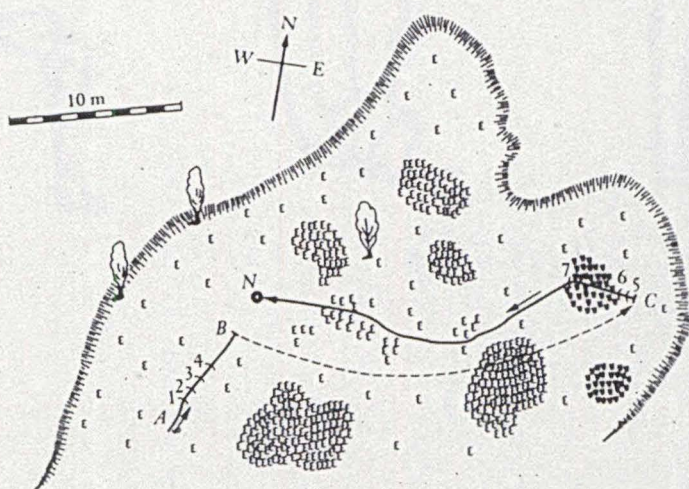
The premises of *Genes and Genesis / Inexact Shadows* are lodged in our culture's myths of human origin; the genetic code and its evolution, and the Bible story about the birth and coming of age of man and woman in the world's first garden. These two formulations of the culturally revealing Ur question represent positions drawn from both sides of the nature/ culture construct. The slash that divides the terms represents the split that lies unintegrated at the bottom of polarized thinking. It flags our cultural malfunction. In *Genes and Genesis / Inexact Shadows* these disassociated stories are reformulated into a multi-linked narrative. Codes of gender, of power, and of various specialized languages are brought into focus in the process. The work looks at the tendency which codes have to slip and mutate, and ponders the tenacity of hierarchy as a bizarre emergent property of human collectivity.



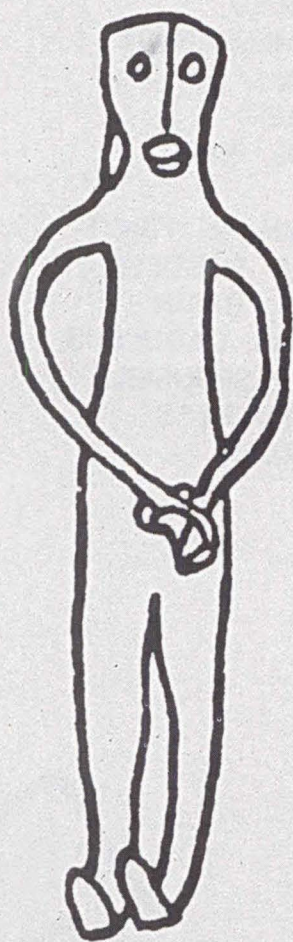
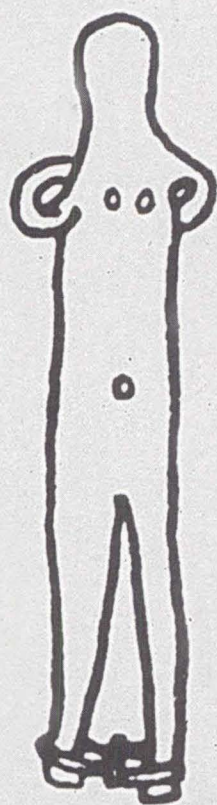




EVE REMEMBERS:  
INANNA, ISHTAR AND PERSEPHONE.  
WERE NOT TO EAT  
EVEN ONE SEED  
OF THE POMEGRANATE.  
BUT THEY ALL DID  
AND SUFFERED  
AND BECAME WISE.  
DEMETER,  
ALSO KNOWN AS VIRGO  
THE MOTHER GODDESS,  
WITH WINGS, GRAIN  
AND HEALING CADUCEUS,  
WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR FRUITFULNESS  
IN THE GARDEN.



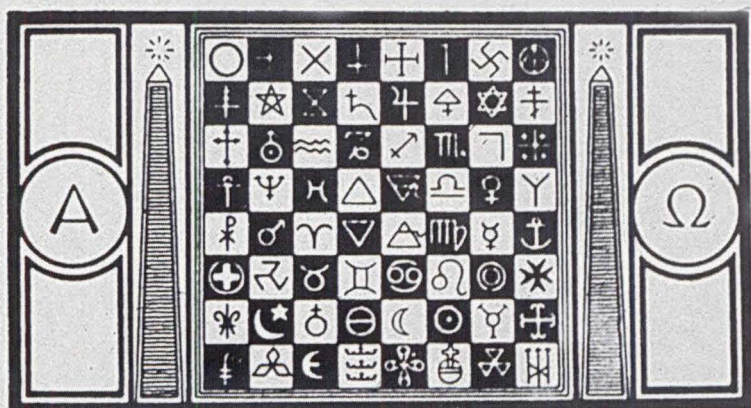






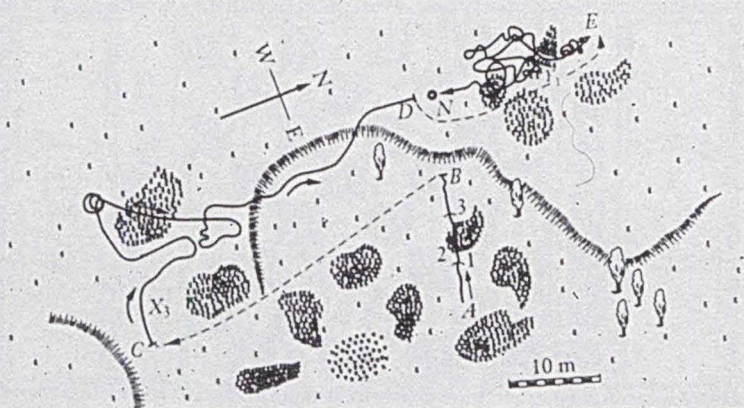
THE EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION INDICATES  
THAT DIVERSITY IS LIFE'S STRATEGY

ALONGSIDE OF ADAM AND EVE  
CREATION BRINGS FORTH  
MEN AND WOMEN OF EVERY GENDER





ADAM,  
NAMED FOR THE SOIL  
REMEMBERS:  
GAINING DOMINION  
OVER ALL LIVING THINGS.  
GIVING THE ANIMALS  
THEIR NAMES.  
BEING SEDUCED BY EVE.  
FEELING SHAME.  
GETTING EXPELLED  
FROM THE GARDEN.









THE SNAKE IN THE GARDEN  
REMEMBERS:  
BEING THE GODDESS CONSORT.  
EXCITEMENT.  
SEXUALITY.  
RAGE.  
REPTILIAN BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD.  
UMBILICUS.  
EMBRYOLOGY AND INFANCY.  
THE HELIX OF DNA.  
GUIDING SOULS.



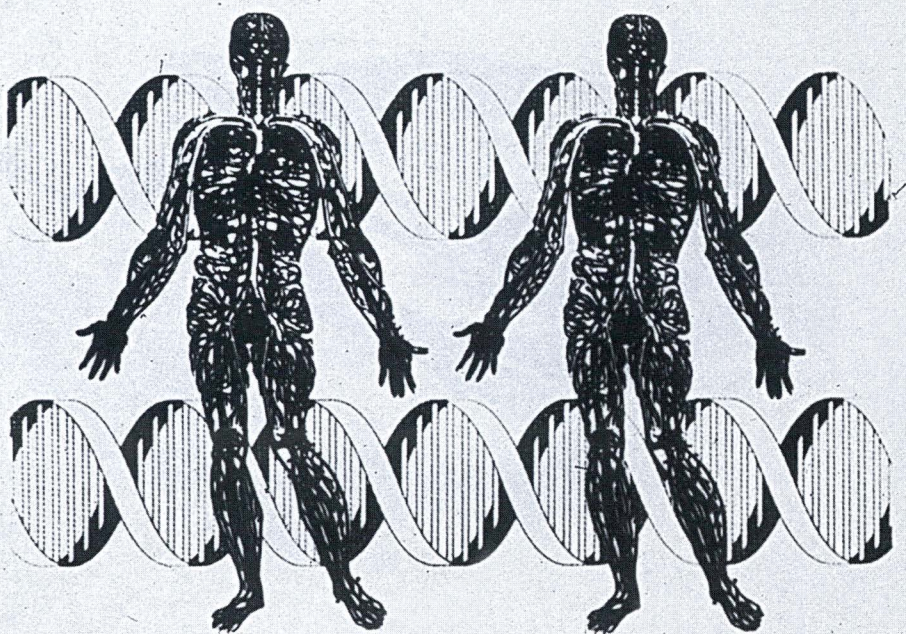




DNA IS A TEXT WRITTEN IN AN ANCIENT LANGUAGE. COMPARATIVE SEQUENCING SUGGESTS THAT ALL LIFE IN THE LAST FOUR BILLION YEARS HAS EVOLVED FROM A SINGLE ANCESTRAL FORM AND EACH AND EVERY LIVING CELL HAS CONTAINED A MUTATED VERSION OF THAT PROGENITOR'S DNA.







ACH LIVING BEING IS A VOLUME IN THE DNA ARCHIVE





THE SUBSTANCE OF HUMANITY IS BOUND UP WITH  
LANGUAGE.

THE LIVING BODY IS A READOUT OF A DNA TEXT IN THE  
INTERACTIVE CONTEXT OF A CULTURAL TEXT.

LANGUAGE MAKES LIFE BEHAVE AS MIND, AS DNA MAKES  
MATTER BEHAVE AS LIFE.

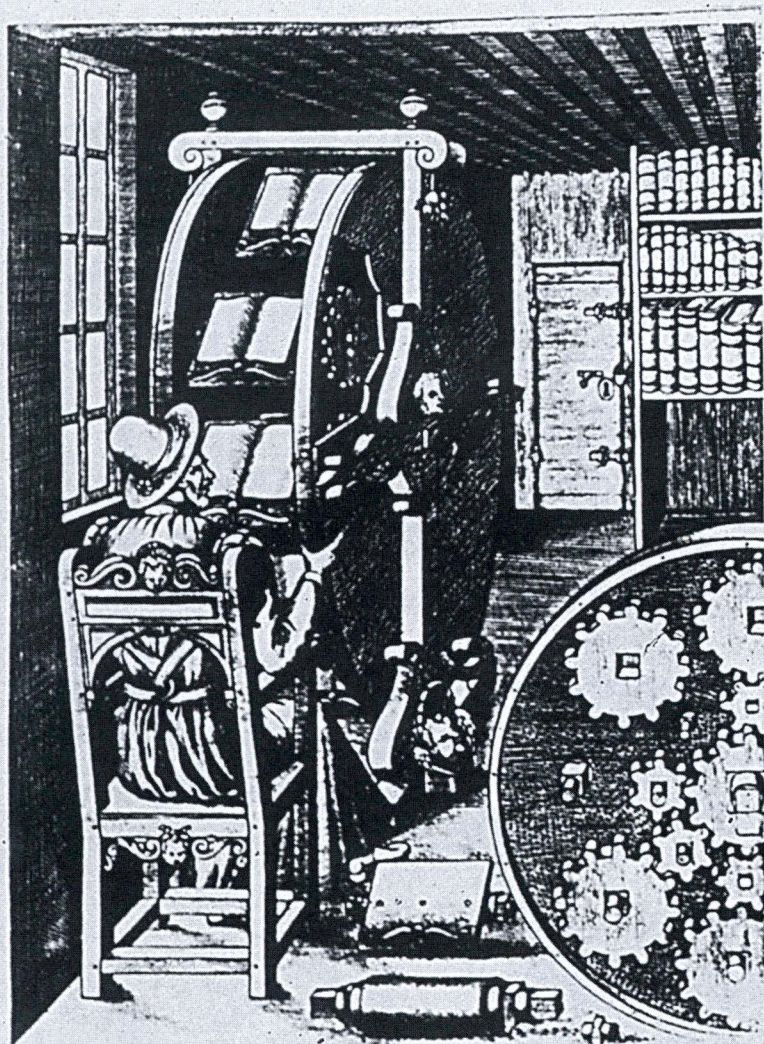


PICTURING  
IS ONLY ANOTHER FORM  
OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
GENETIC CODE AND LIVING BODY.





REPRESENTATIONS ARE TOOLS OF INTERVENTION









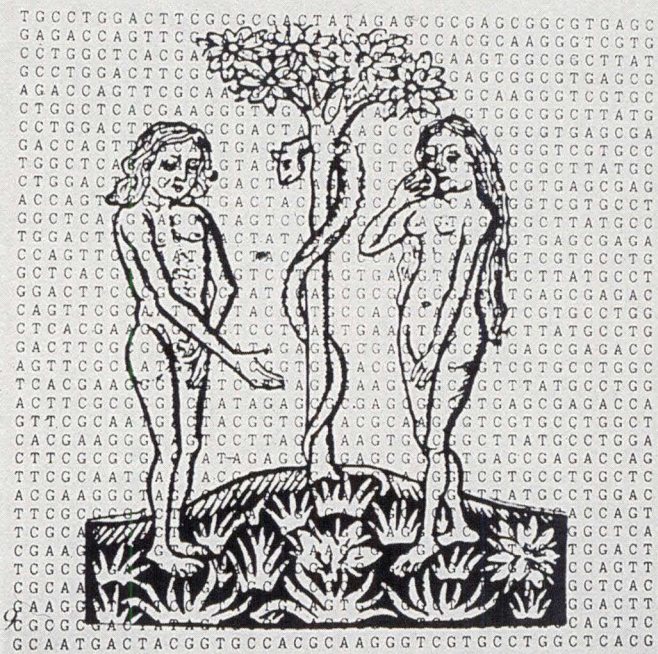


THE WORD AND ITS REFERENT  
CALL UP A REFLEXIVE LOOP,  
AN INFINITE REGRESS,  
AN ECHOING VALLEY,  
AND IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHERE  
THE VOLLEY BEGINS OR ENDS





THE MORE COMPLEX THE PATTERN



THE MORE IMPORTANT THE SILENCES



