

## The Metaphysics of the Tree and Transformations of the Biocentric Approach in Art

### *Summary*

The article is devoted to a complex and comparative study of the image of the tree in culture and art, highlighting its complex historical metamorphosis from the origins of mythical consciousness through the metaphysical interpretation characteristic of later philosophical consciousness to the critical analysis of the spread of biocentric approaches to the growing ecological problems in recent decades. At the beginning of the text, the author aims to look at the deepest meanings of the formation of tree symbolism through the perspective of the history of civilization, to reveal the initial connection between tree and human being. Further, emphasis is placed on the establishment of consumer trends in the current technogenic metacivilization, the intensifying process of the destruction of forests, nature and life forms and the directly related

threats to the existence of humanity. Later, the focus is shifted to the comparative analysis of the tree archetype in the Baltic and other ancient cultures, also it is discussed the historical metamorphoses of the tree image in painting, emphasizing the continuous relevance of the biocentric approach in modernist and postmodernist art. Analyzing in detail the development of the tree motif in the modernizing 20th century, essential shifts from realistic, expressive representation to its abstract interpretation are emphasized in painting. And finally, the article pays special attention to the nature-worshipping artworks of M. K. Čiurlionis based on the image of the tree in the archaic Lithuanian mythological world, which is very close to the biocentric worldview, which helps to develop a responsible approach to the forests and natural environment around us.

**Keywords:** the Tree of Life, biocentric approach, philosophical metaphysics, aesthetics, mythical consciousness, symbol, Lithuanian (Baltic) worldview, tree motifs in painting, Čiurlionis.