

1999

Astarte 6 (Front Matter)

Astarte Staff

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Staff: Astarte 6 (Front Matter)

Astarte



No. 6

SUMMER 1999

Birmingham, Alabama

Greetings from the editors of *Astarte*,

The goddess Astarte was worshipped for at least a millenium before Christ. She was named and revered in different ways among the cultures of the ancient Middle and Near East; the early Hebrews called her Ashtoreth. At first she was worshipped primarily as a goddess of abundance and fertility, but as her cult spread, her aspects multiplied, and she became a goddess of maturity, of love, and of battle. It is clear that she was identified with Aphrodite, Venus, Ishtar, and Isis by their own followers.

In our own century, the search for the goddess is on again. Women have asserted themselves in many ways, and have discovered the plurality of their own beings. They struggle to recognize and assimilate Astarte's many aspects and energies, spiritual and sexual, nurturing and destructive, intuitive and rational; and they struggle to gain the means and confidence to balance these powers in their daily lives. In this spirit of adventure and crisis, *Astarte* was conceived and given the name of the goddess who was among the most ancient, multi-faceted, and universal in history.

The magazine's goal is to hear and represent the voice of both men and women describing these struggles and discoveries. It seeks to represent the visual and verbal arts as well as the humanities, including such disciplines as history and philosophy. Its focus is local, reflecting the editors' desire to represent the voices to be heard in their own place and time.

The Editors:

Melissa Dameron

Joel Dixon

Margaret Harrill

Adam Vines

Advisor:

Jim Mersmann

Cover: Tim Poe—*Found Objects*

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