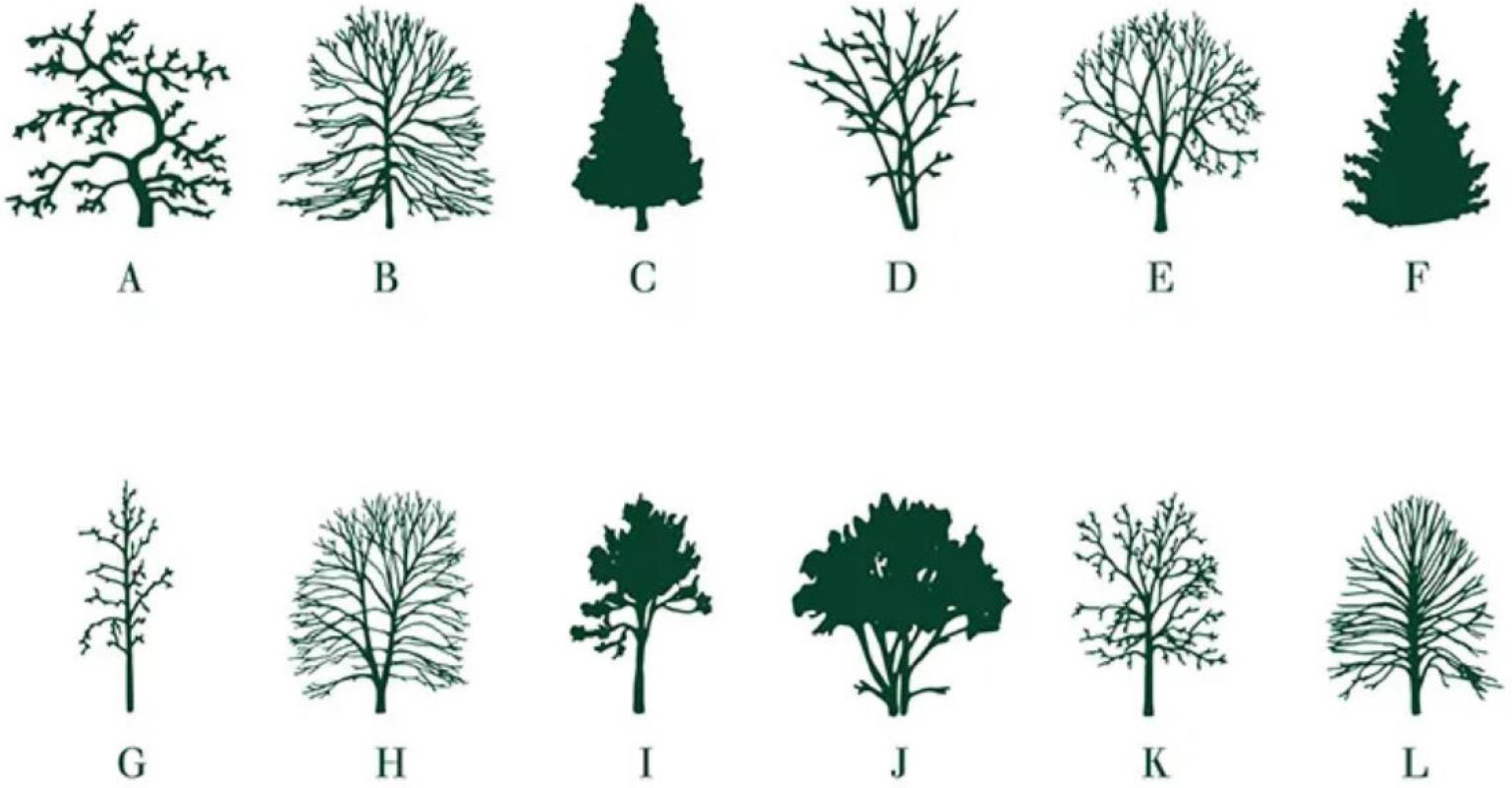
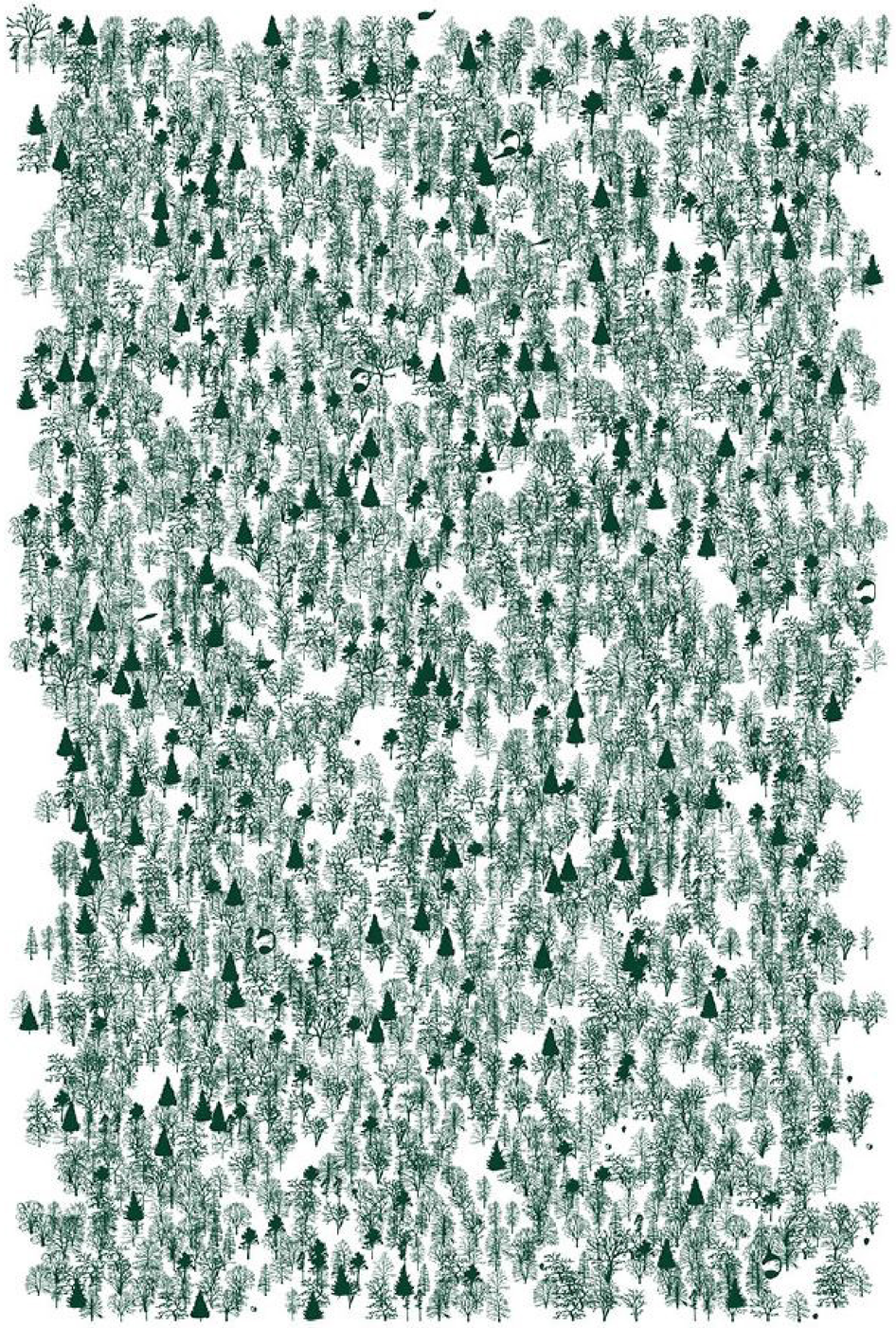


John Lyly

Galatea



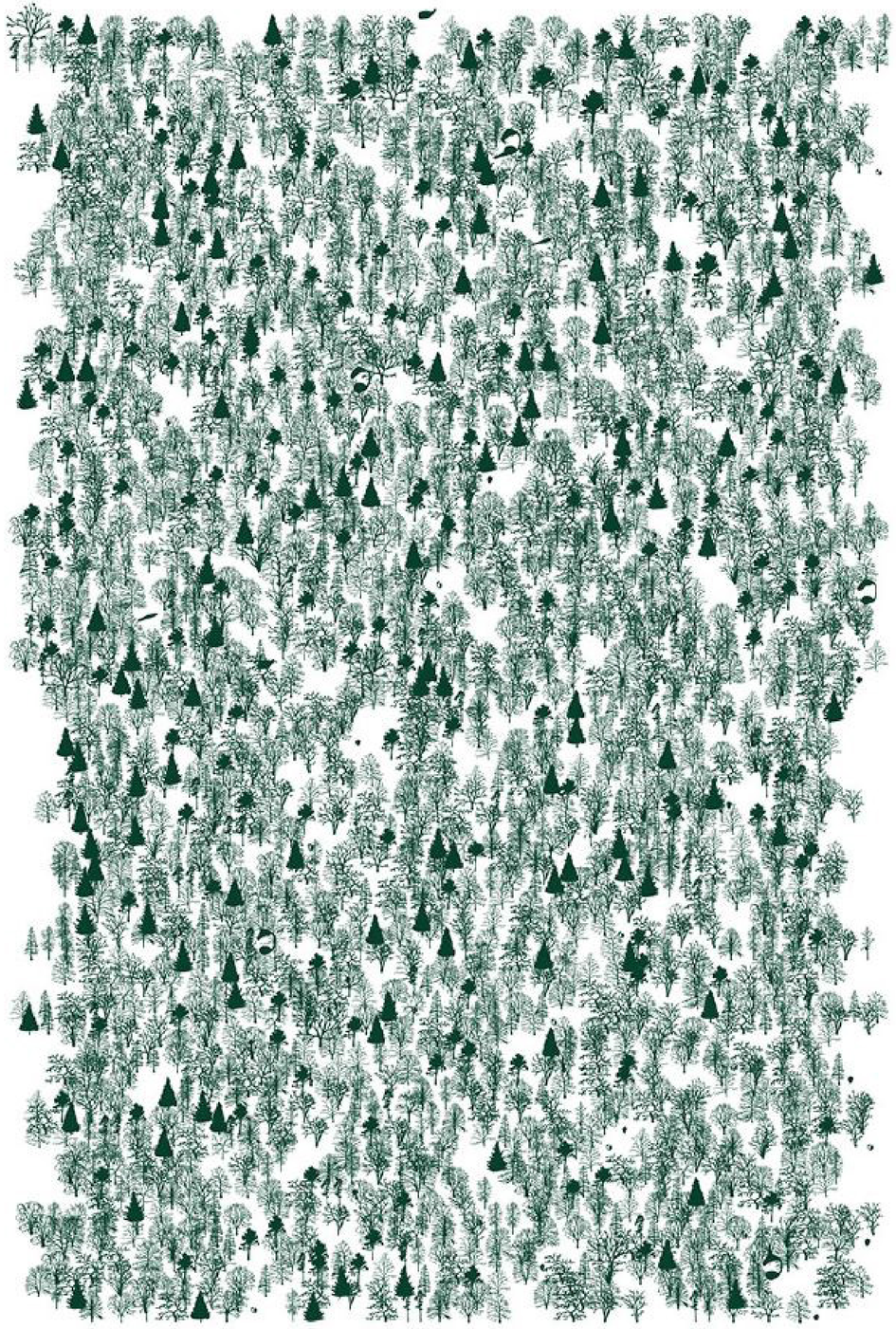
John Lyly (1553 - 1606)

- courtier, playwright (one of the "University Wits")

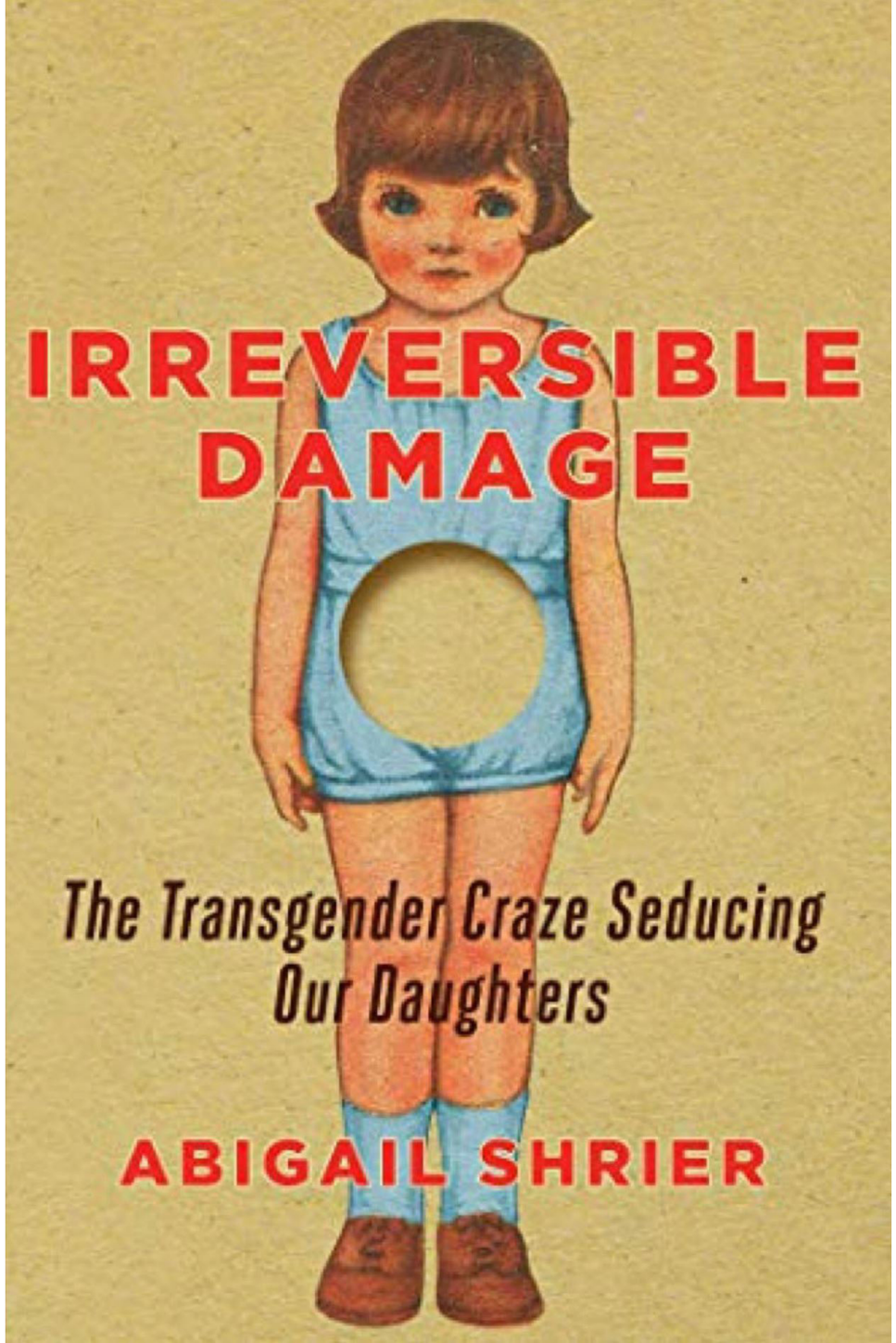
- the preeminent dramatist of the generation prior to Shakespeare

- *Campaspe, Sapho and Phao, Mother Bombie, Love's Metamorphosis, The Woman in the Moon*

- *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit* (1578)



Trans / Nature / Natural



As Introduced

134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022

H. B. No. 454

Representatives Click, Grendell

Cosponsors: Representatives Kick, Merrin, Young, B., Young, T., Creech, John, Bird, Powell, Fowler Arthur, Hall, Holmes, Zeltwanger, Wiggam, Ferguson, Dean, Koehler, Johnson, McClain, Gross, Jordan, Loychik, Hoops, Stoltzfus

A BILL

To enact sections 3129.01, 3129.02, 3129.03, 3129.04, 3129.05, 3129.06, 3129.07, and 3129.08 of the Revised Code to prohibit certain procedures to alter a minor child's sex and to designate this act as the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3129.01, 3129.02, 3129.03, 3129.04, 3129.05, 3129.06, 3129.07, and 3129.08 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3129.01. The general assembly hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(A) This state has a compelling government interest in protecting the health and safety of its citizens, especially vulnerable children;

(B) Only a tiny percentage of the American population experiences distress at identifying with their biological sex.

“Save Adolescents From Experimentation” Act

“Cross-sex hormones” means testosterone or other androgens given to biological females at doses that are profoundly larger or more potent than would normally occur naturally in healthy biological females, or estrogen given to biological males at doses that are profoundly larger or more potent than would normally occur naturally in healthy biological males.

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“The transsexual body is an unnatural body. It is the product of medical science. It is a technological construction. It is flesh torn apart and sewn together again in a shape other than that in which it was born.”

- Susan Stryker, “My Words to Victor Frankenstein”

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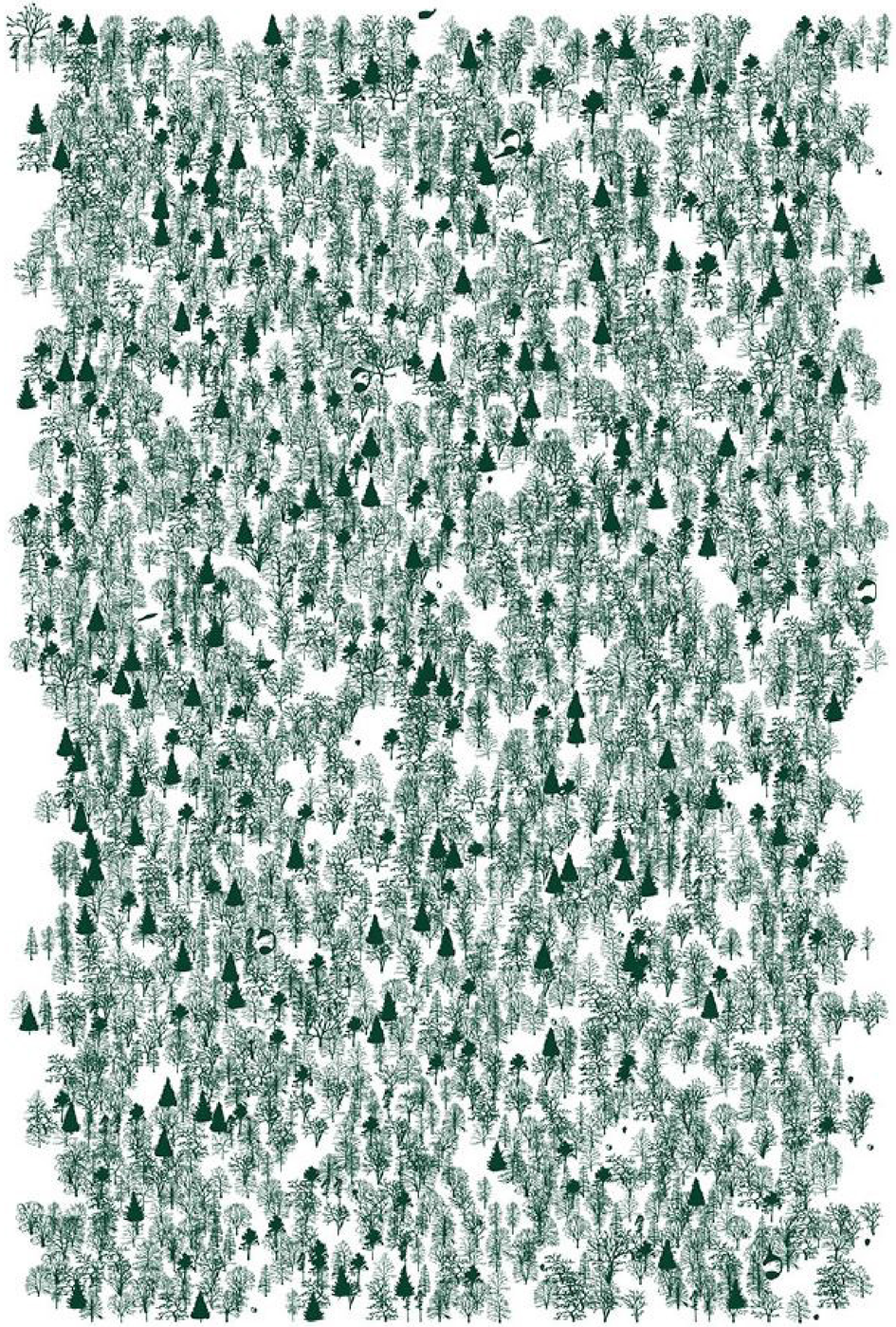
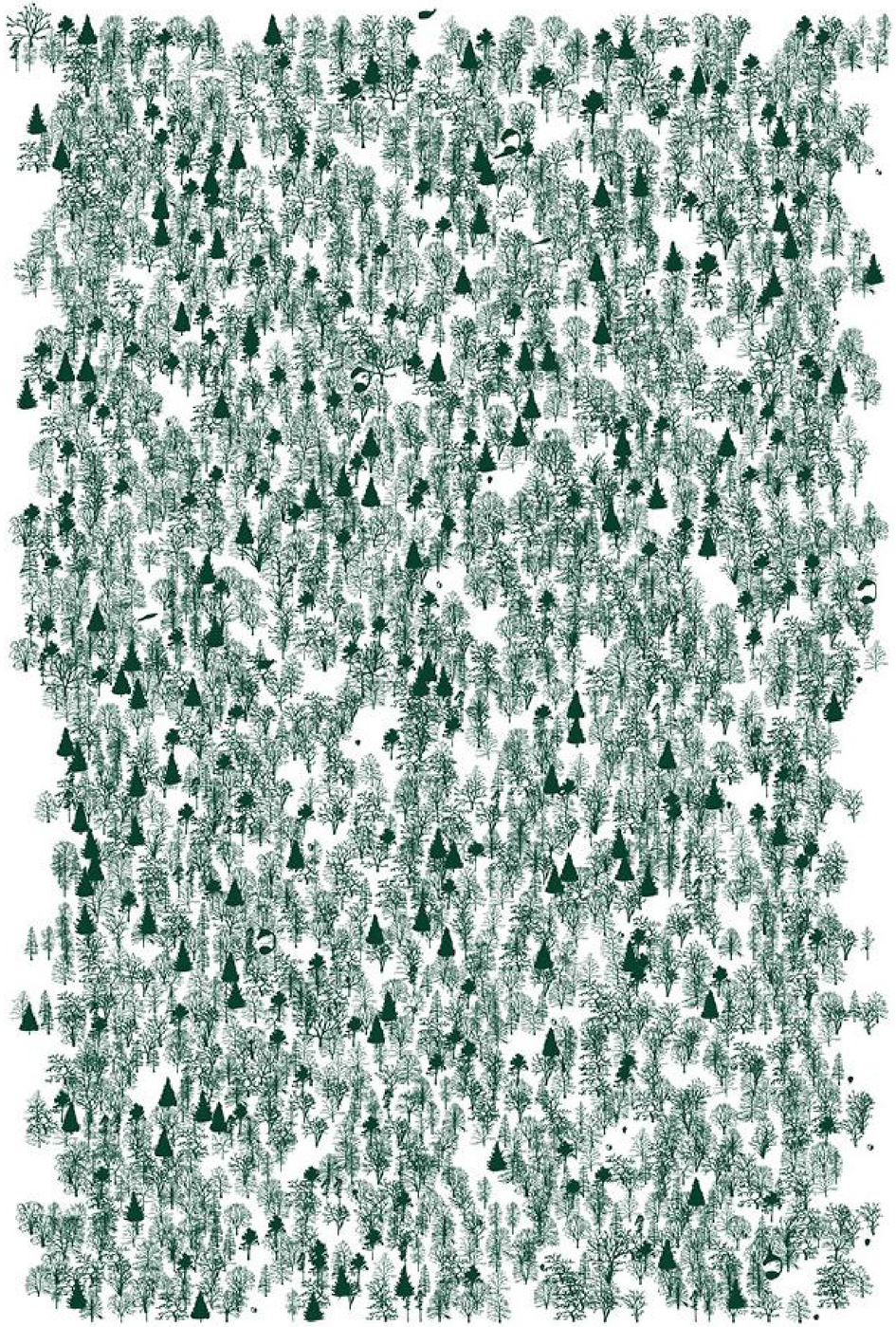


Trans / Nature / Natural

Two definitions of “Nature” in play:



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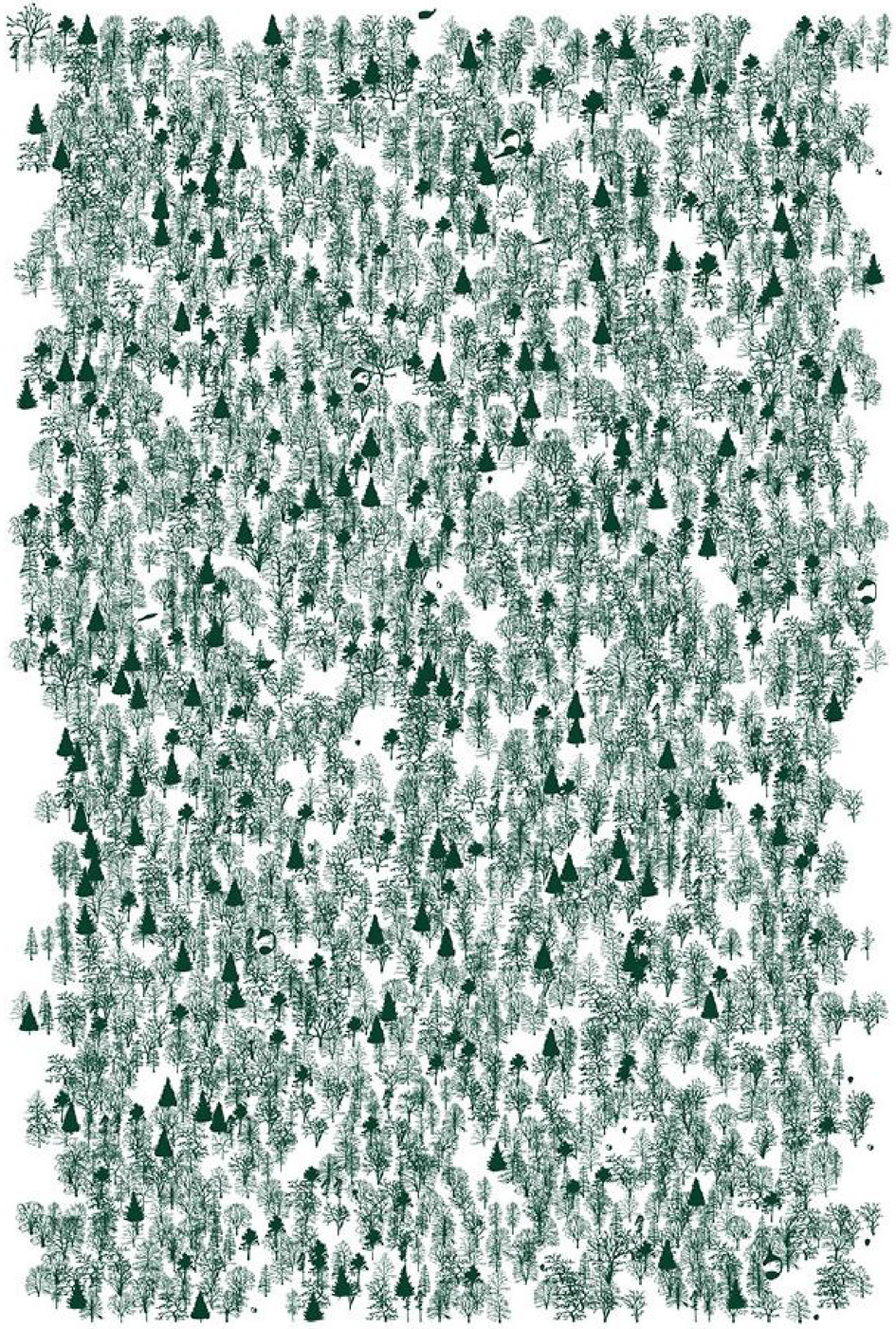

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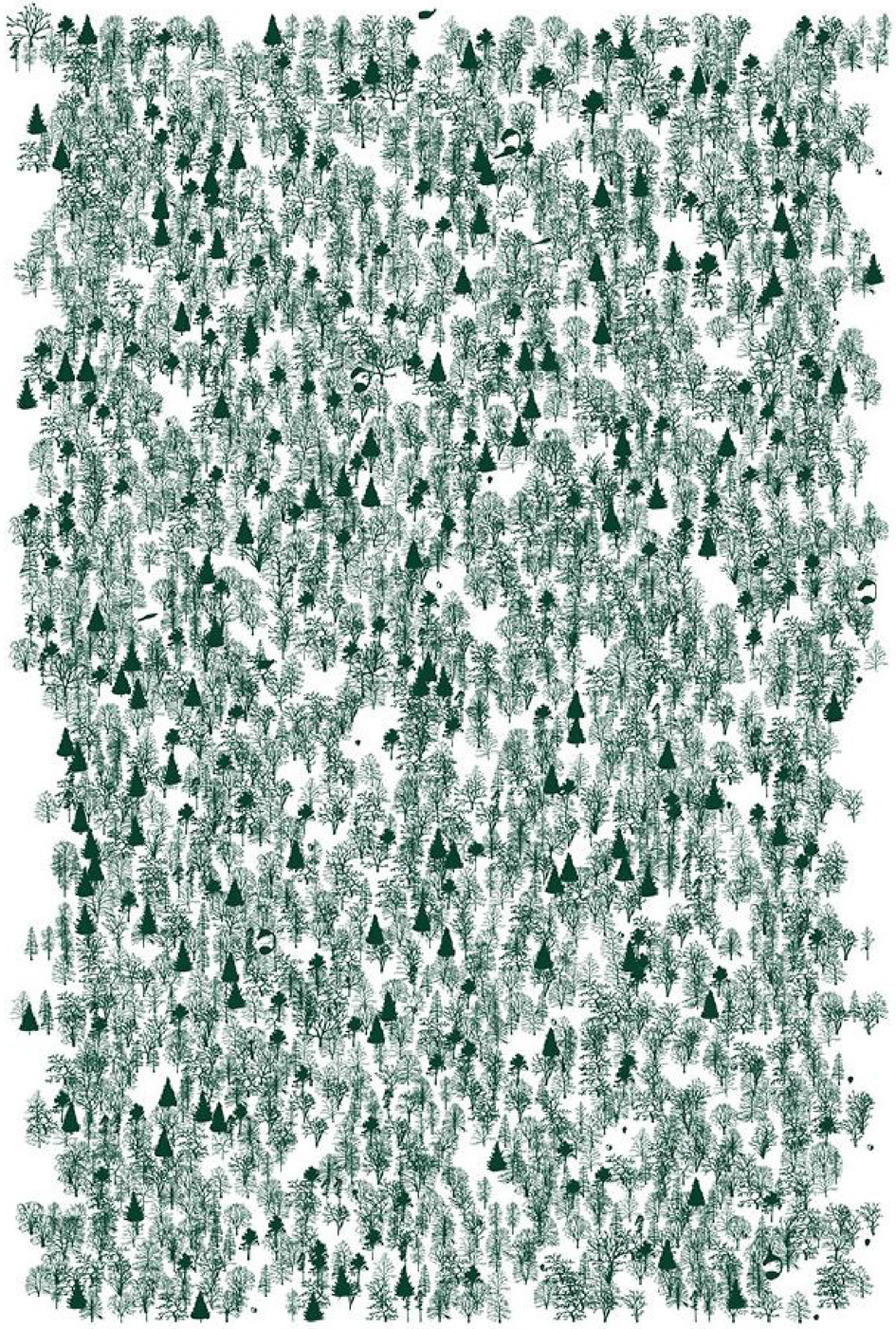

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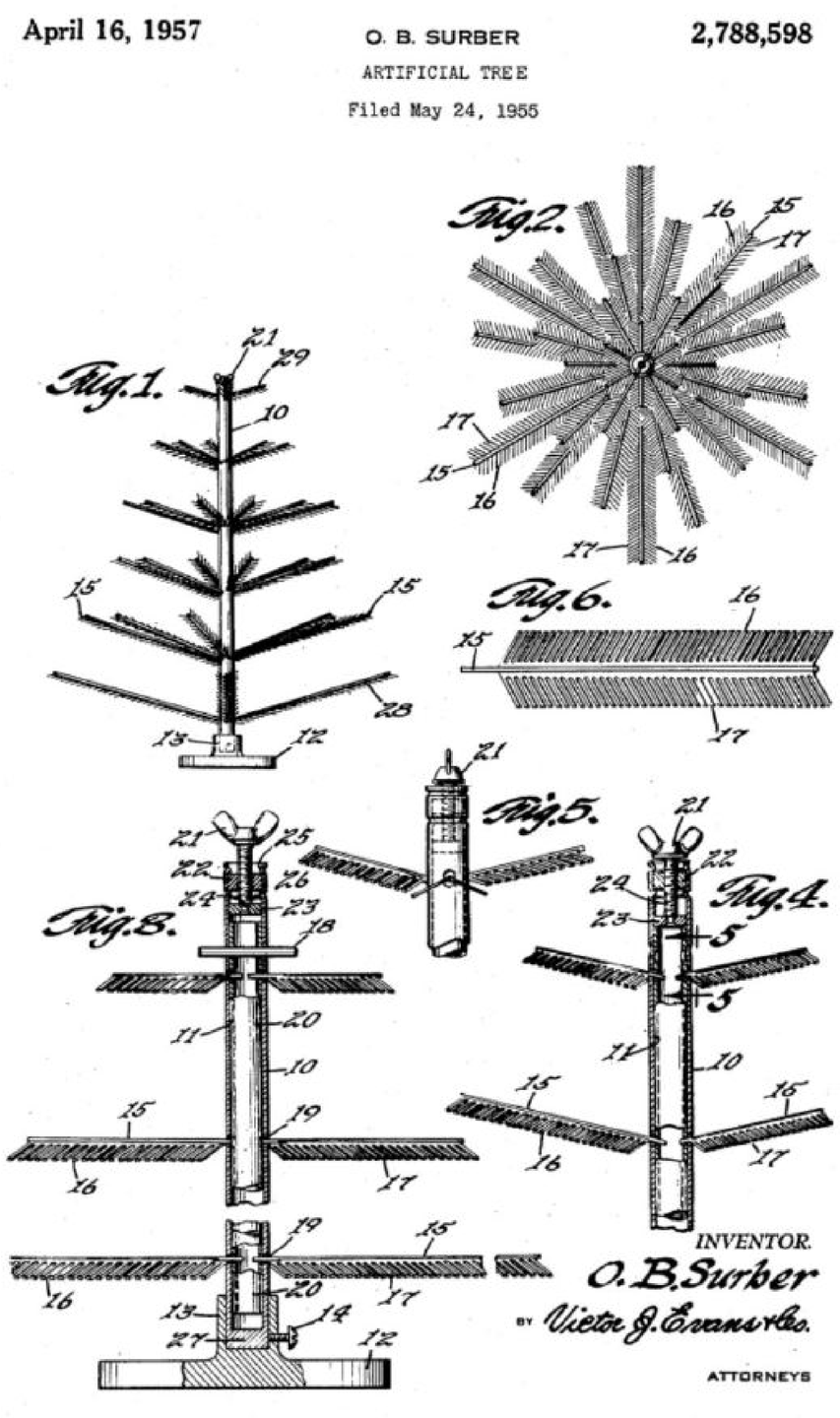
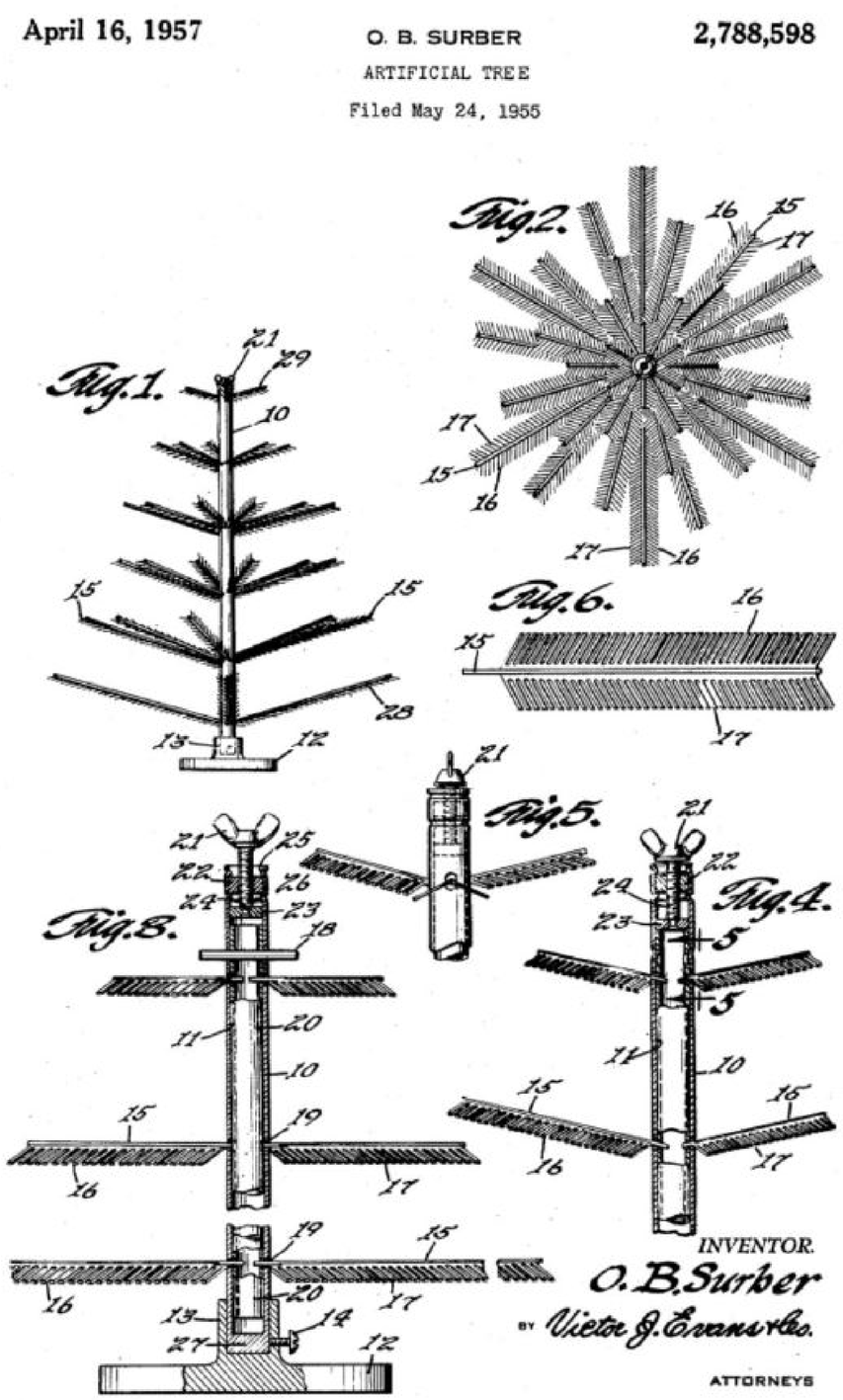
Galatea is interested in both!



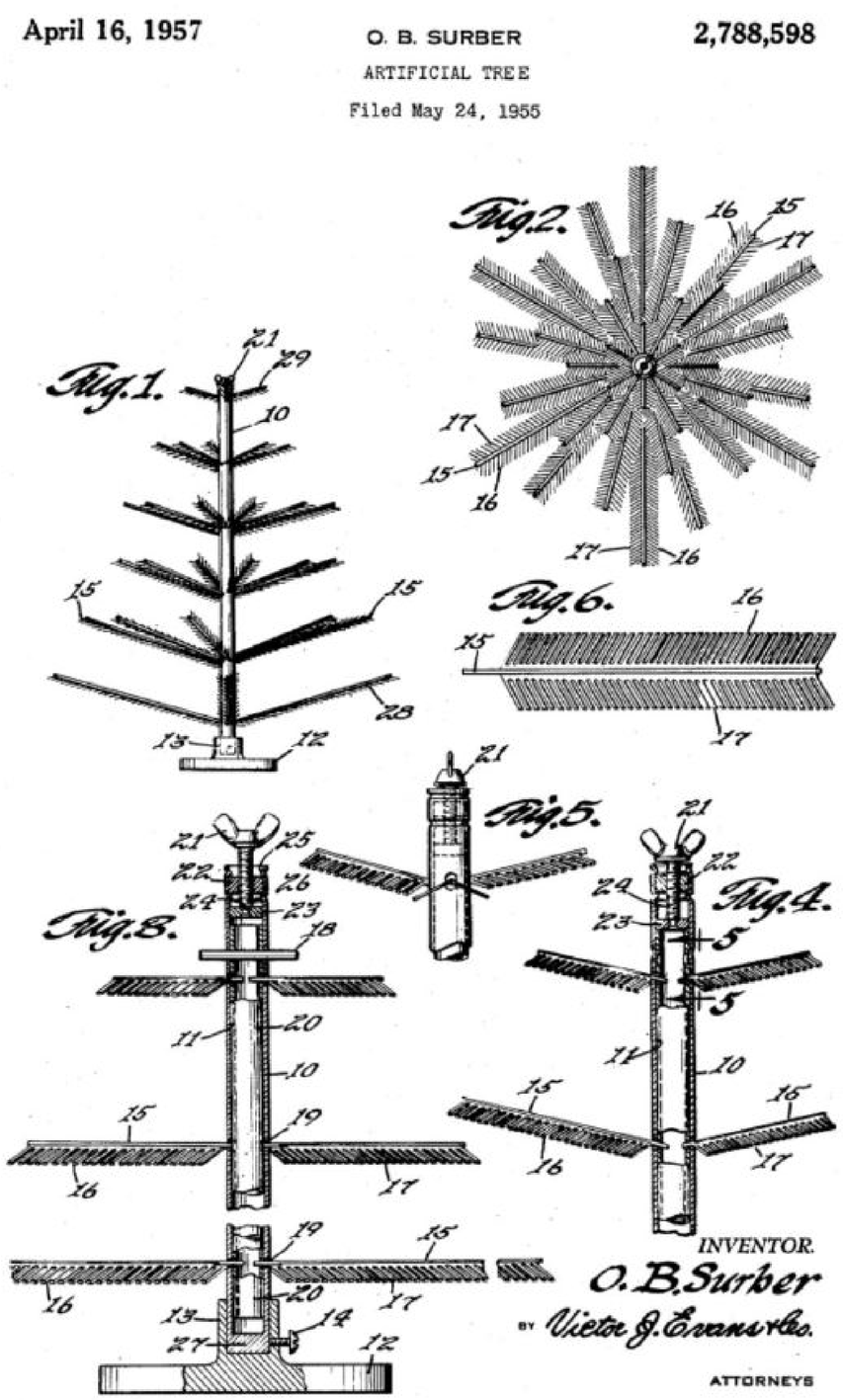
Nature (Personal)

Two senses:



Nature (Personal)

- fixed, inalterable, cis- and heteronormative, God-given, immobile



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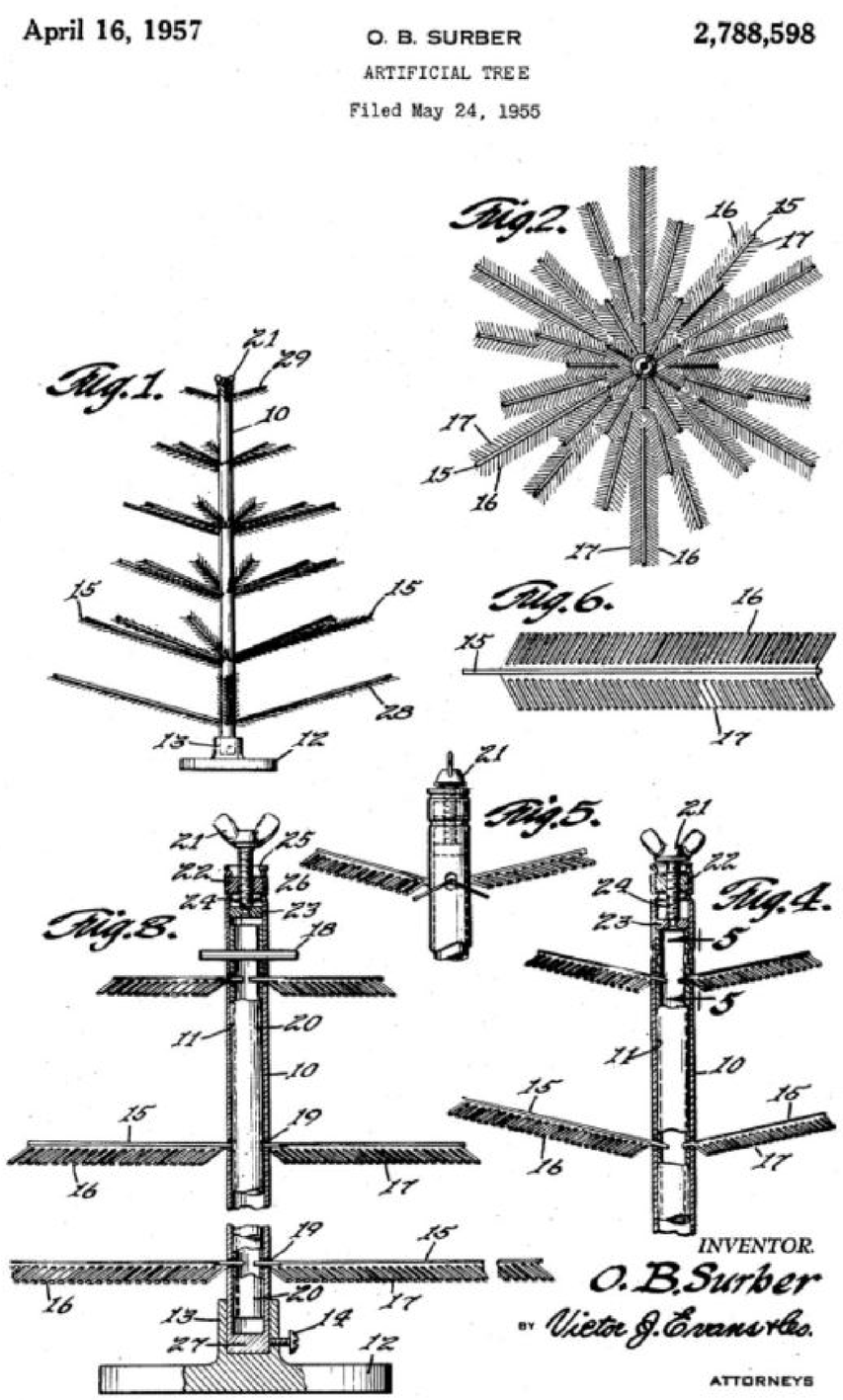
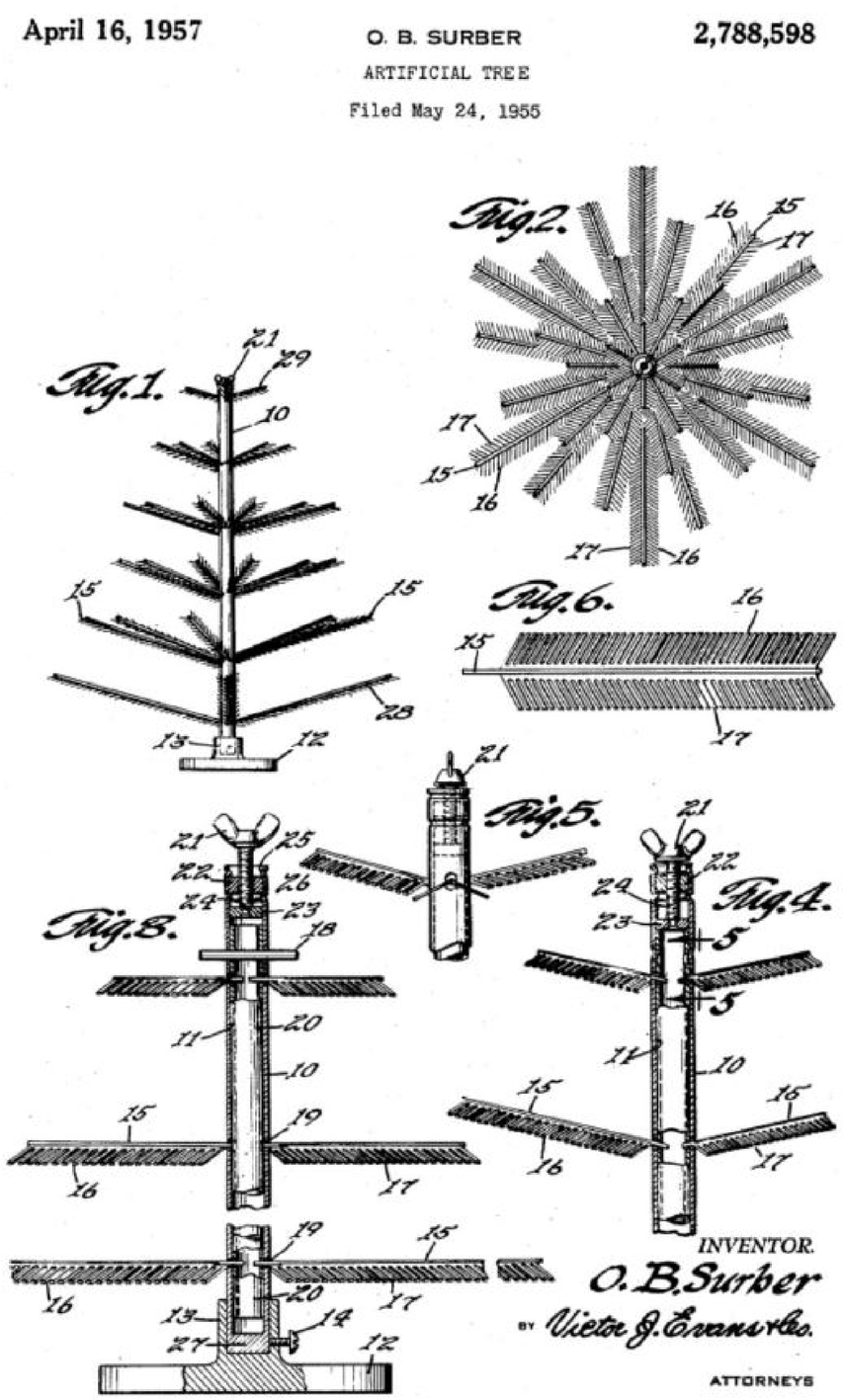
- as capacity: “vital powers,” potential, possibility, incipience, imminence. the ability to act, change, develop, grow, expand, take root, thrive, adapt...



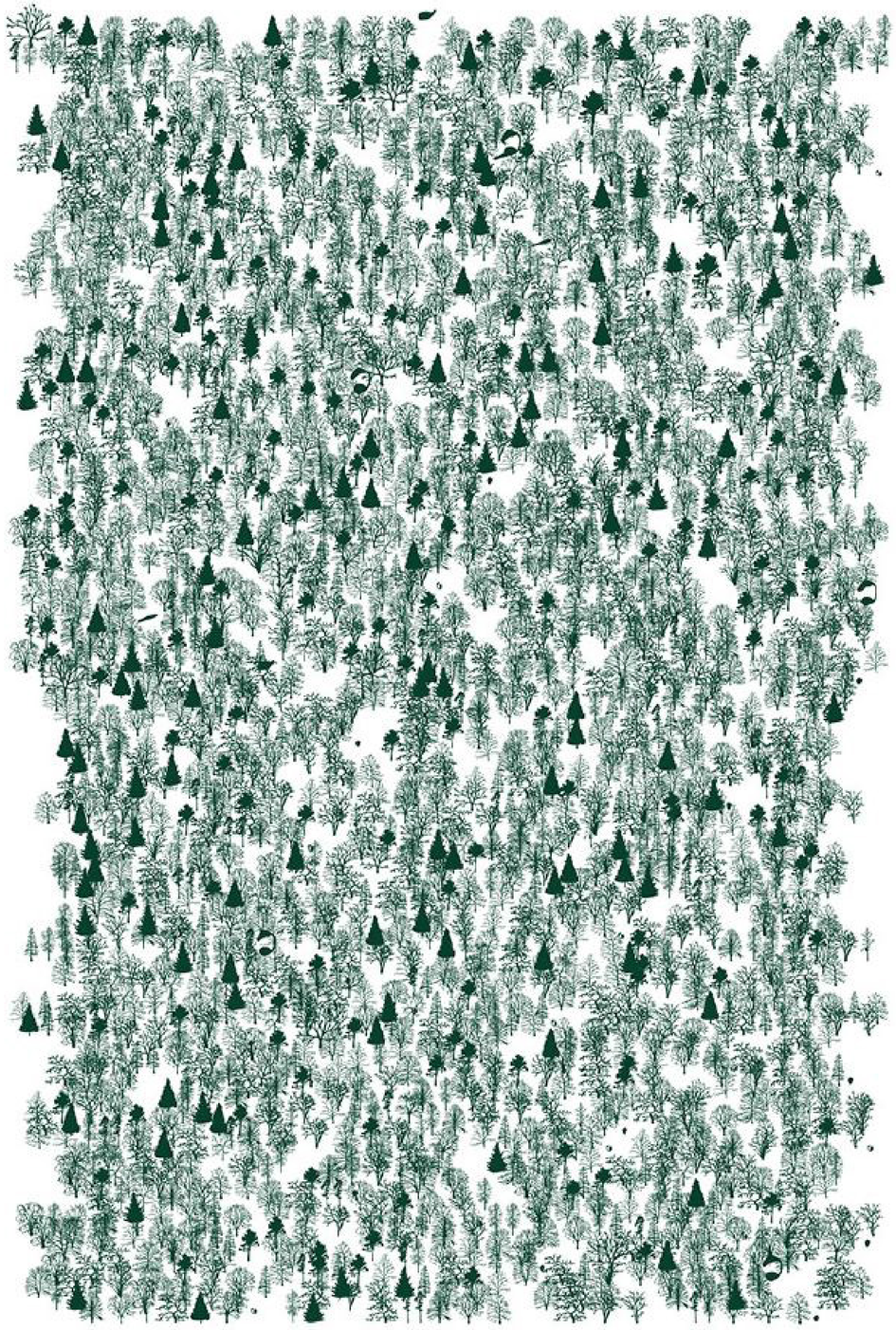
Nature as capacity: “vital powers,” potential, possibility, incipience, imminence. the ability to act, change, develop, grow, expand, take root, thrive, adapt...

Another early modern word for this is virtue (an important word for *Galatea*!)



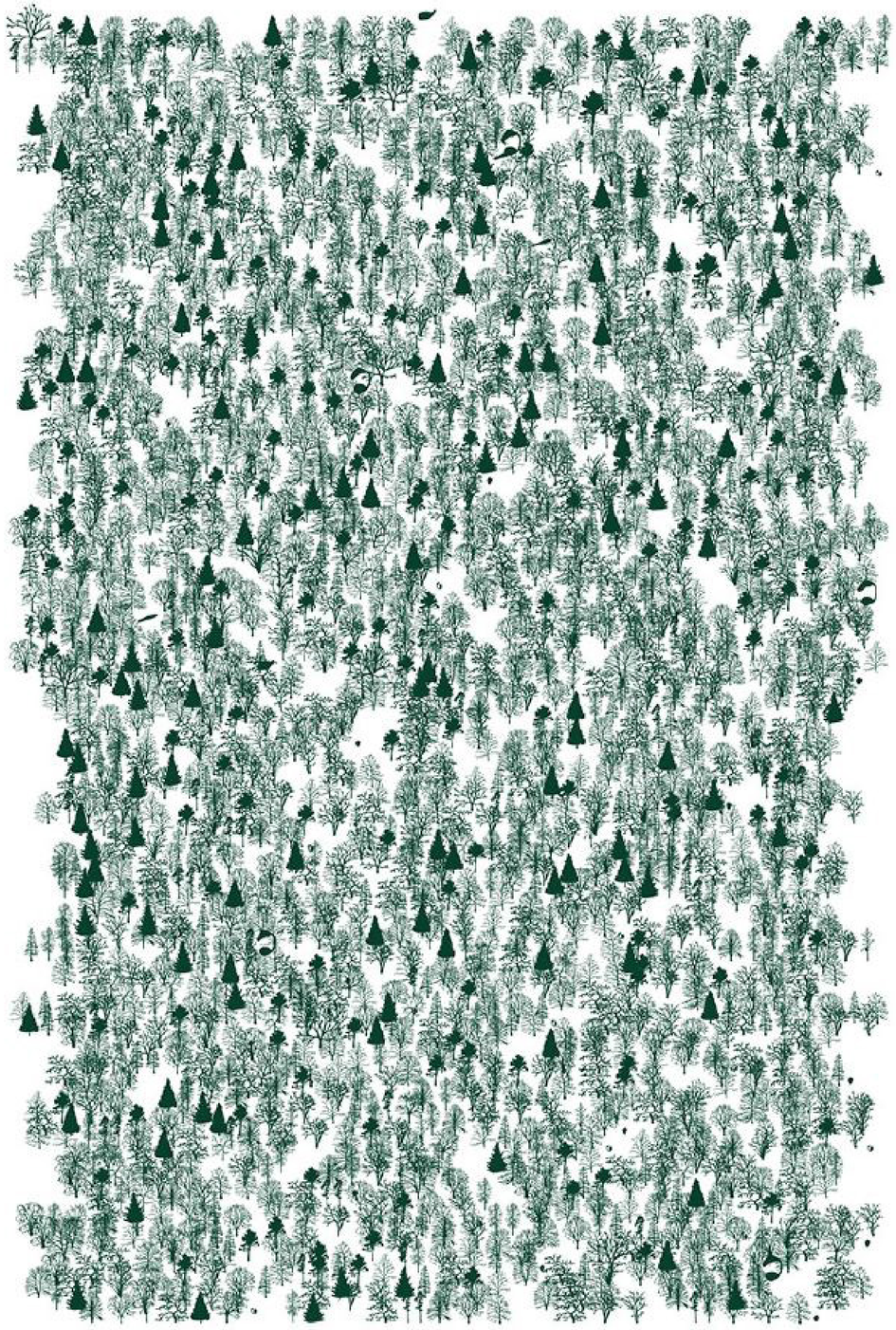
Nature as capacity: “vital powers,” potential, possibility, incipience, imminence. the ability to act, change, develop, grow, expand, take root, thrive, adapt...

David Getsey: “Transgender capacity is the ability or the potential for making visible, bringing into experience, or knowing genders as mutable, successive, and multiple.”



Nature #2: Environment

Where do queer / trans things happen?



city vs. country?

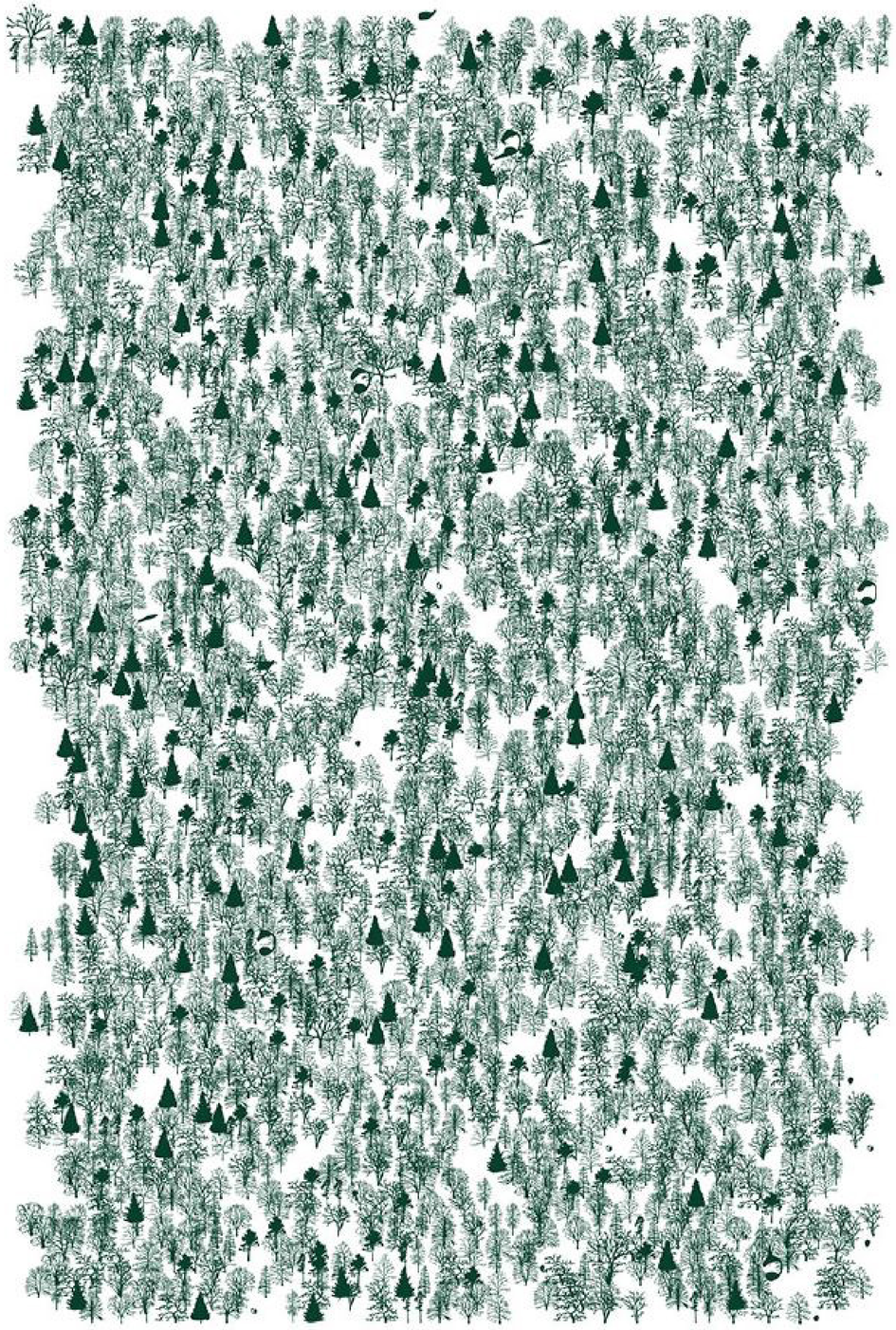
public space vs private space?

parks, beaches, bathrooms, back rooms, truck stops, streets, bars, bathhouses, ballroom, piers...

school, college, camp...

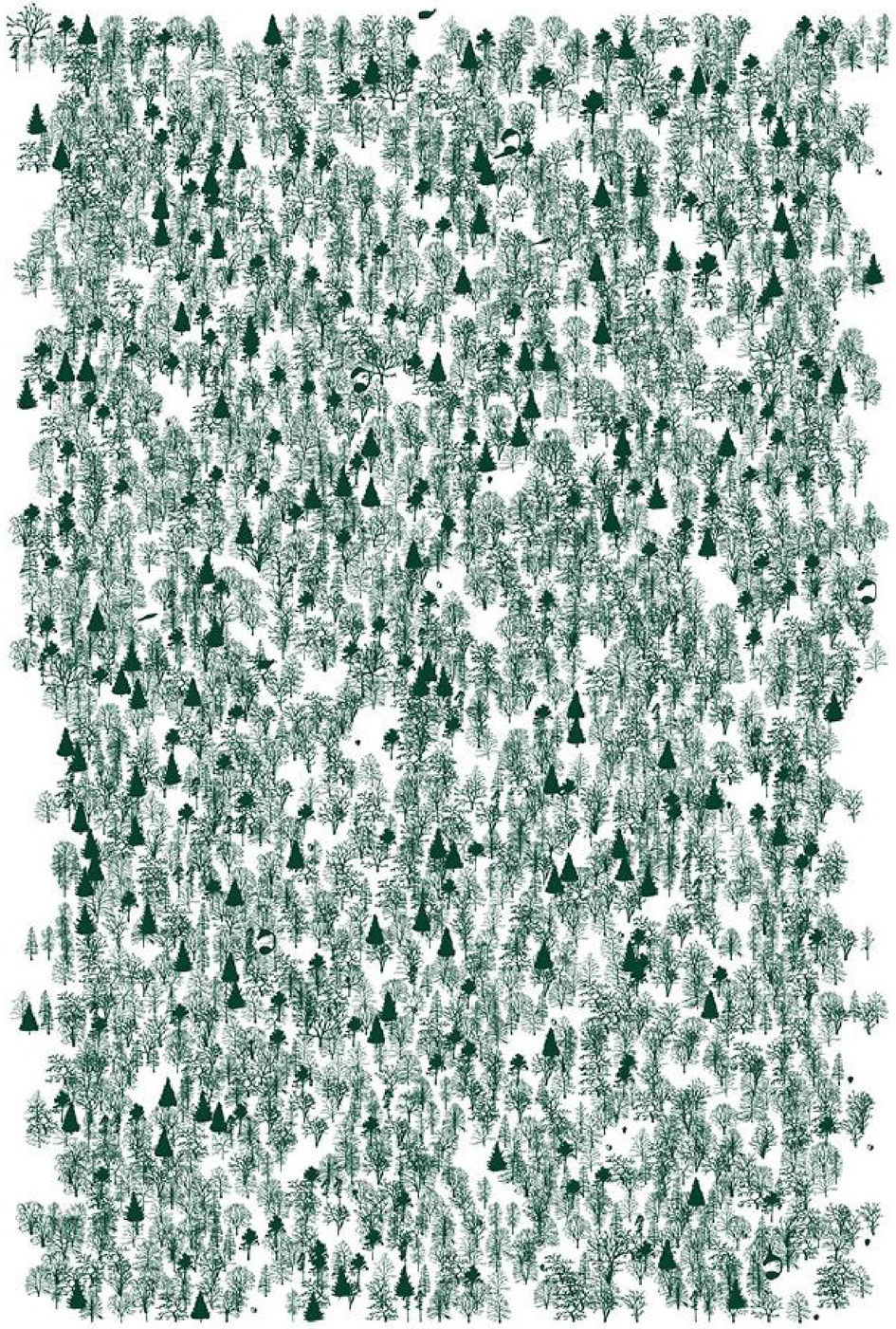
within the home? outside the home?

A spatial vocabulary of queerness and transness



“Queer uses of time and space develop in opposition to the institutions of family, heterosexuality, and reproduction. They also develop according to other logics of location, movement, and identification.”

- Jack Halberstam, *A Queer Time and Place*

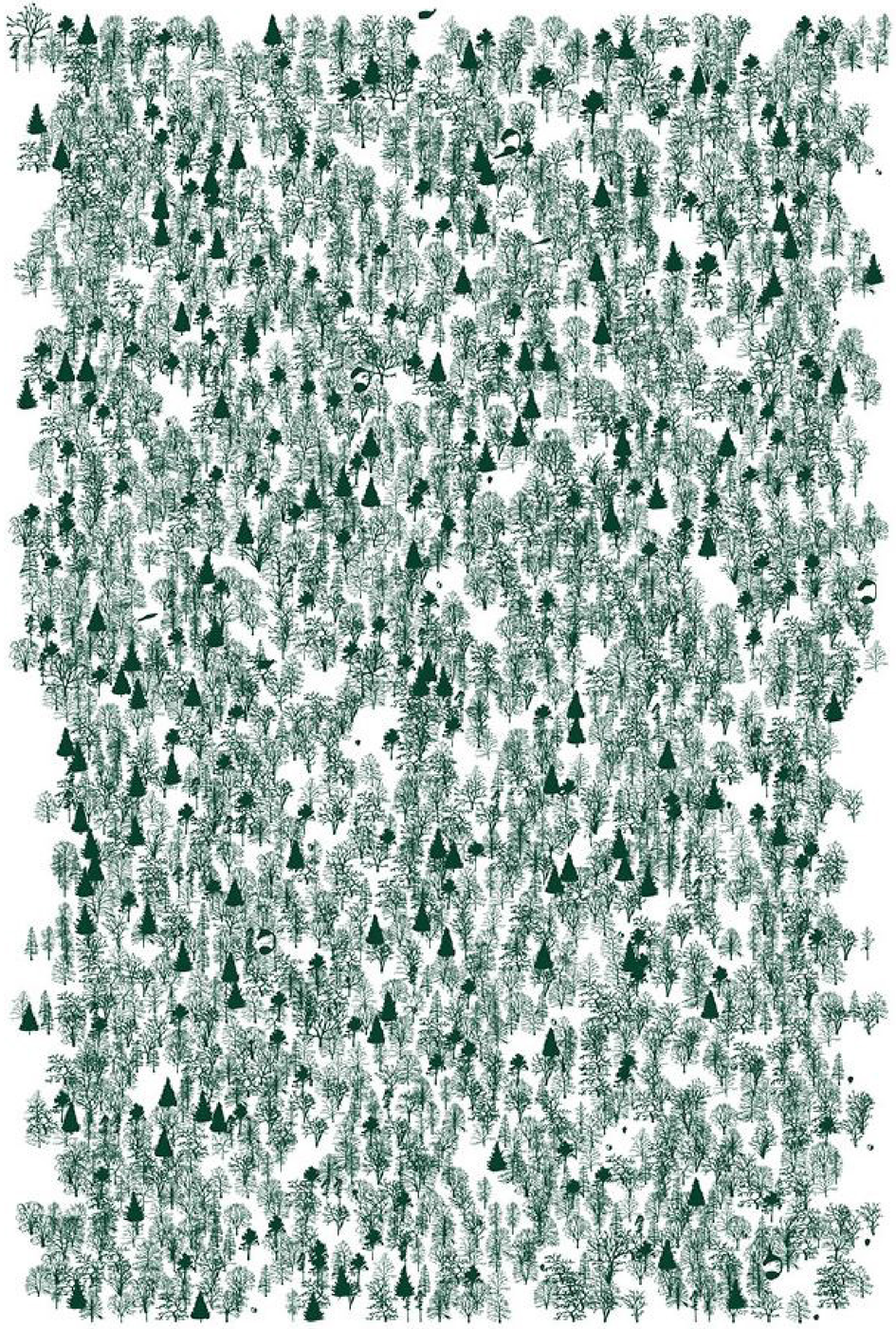


The Forest

forest, from Latin *fors* (outside, beyond, forth)

forest, foreign

the city: civility, social ordering, normativity, law, politics, sociality



forest, from Latin *fors* (outside, beyond, forth)

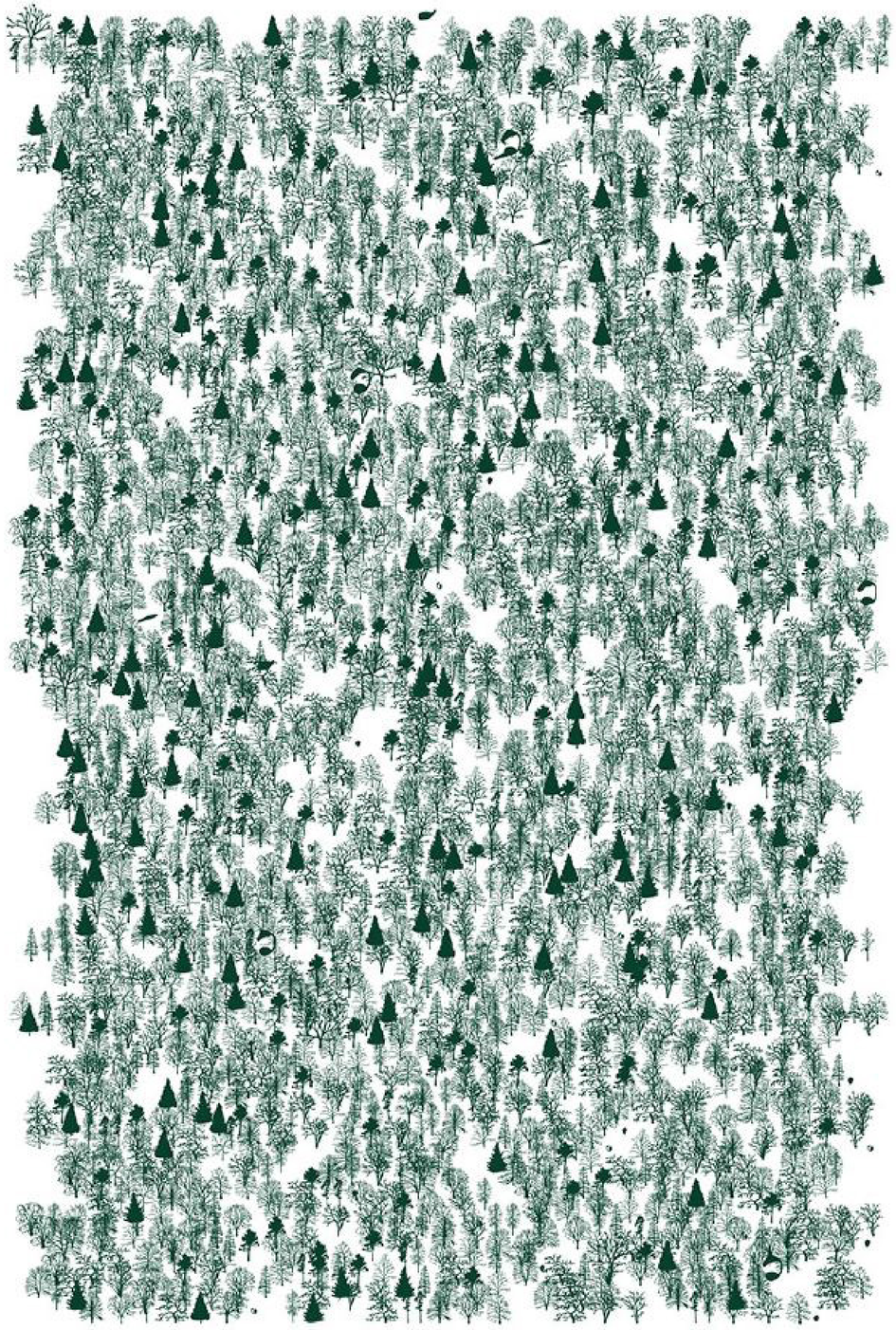
forest, foreign

the city: civility, social ordering, normativity, law, politics, sociality

Are there “forest” zones in the city?

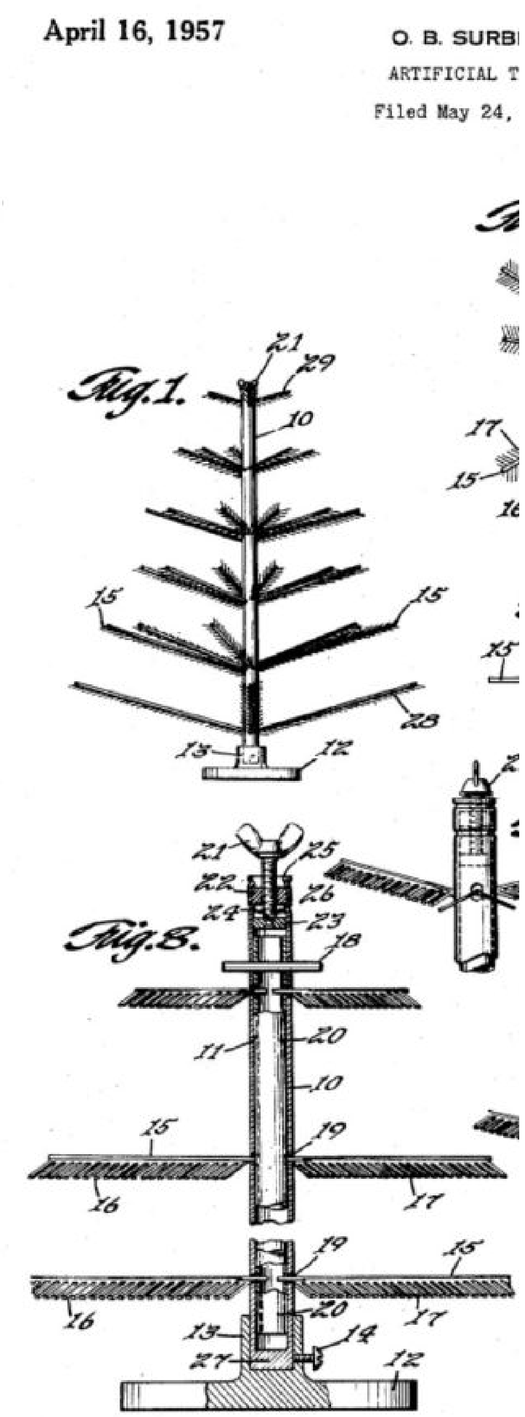
What does it feel like to be in “the forest?”

AIRDALE ROAD
ASHBRIDGE ROAD
NORTH ROBERTS ROAD
NEW GULPH ROAD
WYNDON AVENUE
MERION AVENUE
YARROW STREET
MORRIS AVENUE
Bryn Mawr College
Maria Rabinky



Forest Zones, Trans Capacities

What happens in *Galatea*'s forest?
Are there trans natures there?



“Hath nature (as you say) made me so fair above all, and shall not virtue make me as famous as others? Do you not know, or doth overcarefulness make you forget, that an honorable death is to be preferred before an infamous life? I am but a child, and have not lived long, and yet not so childish as I desire to live ever. Virtues I mean to carry to my grave, not gray hairs. I would I were as sure that destiny would light on me as I am resolved it could not fear me. Nature hath given me beauty, virtue courage; nature must yield me death, virtue honor. Suffer me therefore to die, for which I was born, or let me curse that I was born, sith I may not die for it” (1.1.79-91).