

"Earth exhibits a fierce and tender beauty, the very thing that human beings have put at risk. In this truly beautiful book, Alexander presents with accessible erudition a vision of what might actually save the beauty we have so clearly squandered—a vision both ancient and refreshingly contemporary. For all Christians, not least those enamored with primarily juridical notions of salvation, this heart-opening book issues a clarion call to embrace divine beauty as the very source of beauty's salvation. It is both pioneering and familiar at once, a remarkable achievement."

—**Jay Emerson Johnson**

Pacific School of Religion and Graduate Theological Union

"This important book demonstrates that ecological concerns of our time, which we may have thought of as secular, are a central religious issue. In *Saving Beauty*, Kathryn Alexander argues persuasively that the experience of beauty is salvific. St. Augustine called God 'the great beauty'; had he lived in a time of ecological crises, he would have agreed that an environmental crisis is a spiritual crisis. *Saving Beauty* is required reading for Christians who take seriously the responsibility to care for creation."

—**Margaret R. Miles**

Graduate Theological Union

"In a time when environmentalism tends to focus on 'gloom and doom', Kathryn Alexander's important work reminds us that we need to cultivate our appreciation of beauty in the natural world, not just for 'saving nature' but also for our own redemption. Using concrete experiences to ground her writing, she takes us through a retrieval of nature in Christian theological aesthetics, Josiah Royce's understanding of beauty and the 'beloved community,' and the art of Andy Goldsworthy in order to develop a theological aesthetics of nature that understands humans as a part of nature and extends community to include the ecological."

—**Whitney Bauman**

Florida International University