# Artpark 2021 Ajournal



Don't just change, transform.

- Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

# 2020: Art's healing power

During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, Artpark and its visitors discovered that art has an important role to play in the healing process.

Artpark was able to host over 80 small scale events that gave people inspiration and hope that a return to normalcy was just around the corner.



# 2021: Live is \*back, baby!

(\*well, yes, but ...)

If 2020 was about art's healing power, 2021 was about the return to live performance while continuing to adhere to COVID-19-related requirements for events.

Through it all, Artpark responded by providing safe and stress-free environments to entertain and enlighten. But 2021 was not simply about rising to meet those challenges ...



# New vistas of possibility ...

Part of Artpark's remit is to offer new sights, sounds and ideas; to open new vistas of possibility. Throughout these unprecedented times, we've learned that constraints sometimes offer opportunities for curator and attendee alike. We've ventured down uncharted paths and are thrilled the community has joined us on the journey.





# onic Trails: It's a walk in the park ...



After the success of last year's Cover The Water -- a site-specific composition by acclaimed multimedia artists and composers **The** 

### Holladay Brothers --

Artpark wanted to expand this concept that seemed tailor-made for our current, socially-distanced reality.

Early in 2021, Artpark, in partnership with SoZo Artists and The Holladay Brothers, developed the concept into **Sonic Trails** -- an entire season of site-reactive audio experiences presented in a free mobile app.



With a hyper-local and global perspective, **SoZo Creative** and **Artpark** have brought together some of the most influential BIPOC voices in music to cultivate aural experiences, exploring the unique geological and historic Earl W. Brydges Artpark State Park (located on Niagara Gorge, just seven miles from Niagara Falls).

Funded by: M&T Bank, Cullen Foundation, National Endowment on the Arts, New York State
Council on the Arts, Grigg Lewis Foundation, Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

### More Sonic Trails...

Featuring collaborations with indigenous performers and storytellers, and a diverse collection of artists -- including Rhiannon Giddens with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, DJ Spooky, The Kronos Quartet, The Holladay Brothers, Michele-Elise Burnette with Jordan Smith, Semiah Smith, Gary Parker, Strong Water, Adrian Haruno, Josie and Chris, Quinna Hamby, Carin Jean White, Darryl Tonemah -- Sonic Trails is a free app designed to provide listeners with immersive, responsive sound experiences as they walk the historic trails along the majestic and mighty Niagara.





### Her Moccasins Talk

One of the site-reactive app experiences Artpark is particularly proud of is **Her Moccasins Talk.** 

Based on the **Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address**, the immersive experience enables Artpark visitors to become one with the natural world in a uniquely immersive way.

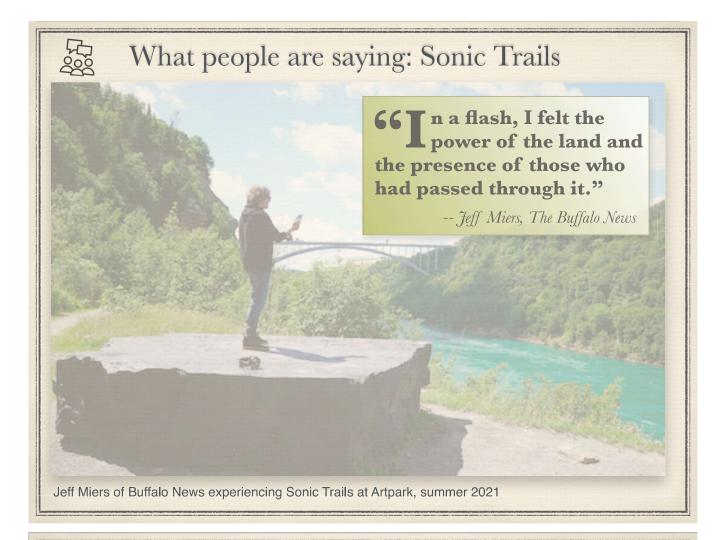
The path along the Niagara helps guests look inward, rediscover themselves and reflect on the harmony and balance of all living things.



Curated by Indigenous bridge builder **Michele-Elise Burnett** and featuring local First Nations Knowledge Keepers, storytellers, and singers, Her Moccasins Talk takes parkgoers through a mindful journey that lets them experience the landscape through an Indigenous lens -- guided by the nurturing matriarch's voice and carried along by inspirational songs and sounds.



Michele-Elise Burnett



### A Torn Space Theater and Artpark production

**Intersection/Prototype** was a site-based performance created by Torn Space Theater designed for the color field open space of Gene Davis "Niagara 1979" painted lot on the grounds of Artpark.

Torn Space collaborated with a local Bengali cricket team to stage a live cricket match at dusk. As the sun began to set, theatrical lighting and a designed soundscape with pre-recorded text became integrated with the game, altering the context and positioning the game within a designed performance environment. As the game progressed and night arrived, selected automobiles entered into a choreographed routine highlighting the ceremonial color field of Niagara 1979, where headlights and machines engaged with the surrounding landscape.



### New Music in the Park ...

The eclectic chamber music series featured world, jazz, chamber and percussion music presented in various locations on the grounds of the park.

World-renowned percussion ensemble **Sō Percussion**, bandoneonist and composer **JP Jofre** and twenty-piece **Alarm Will Sound** -- who transported visitors with acoustica renditions of Aphex Twin and Eartheater — **Buffalo Jazz Composers Workshop** and **Null Point** perfectly reflected Artpark's commitment to presenting world-class artists that challenge audiences to open their minds (and hearts) to new sounds and experiences.

Series sponsor: HSBC Bank



# Interview with Kenneth Kam

How many people knew what a theorbo was before attending Baroque Dreams in Artpark's Emerald Grove and seeing lutenist Kenneth Kam play the 16-century instrument live?

"I am very excited to explore the greens and the environment there and, most importantly, to make music ... with everyone there.

It is definitely a great pleasure to perform at Artpark. Thank you so much for having me! "

--Kenneth Kam

[Click for interview]



Lutenist Kenneth Kam performed in Baroque Dreams, June 27



# Interview with Alarm Will Sound's Alan Pierson

"What has always been part of our identity is to take a broad look at the musical world and find connections; embrace, as performers, the full range of music that we find exciting."

-- Alan Pierson, AWS

Conductor and Artistic Director





### Buffalo Jazz Composers Workshop

The Buffalo Jazz Composers Workshop is a group of like-minded composer/performers who have cultivated a unique sound through collaborative compositional, programming and performance opportunities. The group has worked with literary and theatrical artists to create new work with a contemporary jazz style.

Sara Rogers, vocals and percussion
Tim Clarke, trumpet
Nelson Rivera, alto and tenor saxophone
Alec Dube vibraharp
Michael McNeil, piano
Jared Tinkham, guitar
Joe Goehle, bass
John Bacon, drums



# Multi-Dimensions Ouartet

Exploring the History of Jazz music including original compositions by the group members. The group features some of the most prominent musicians in the Western New York region, including vocalist Alex McArthur and Bobby Militello on sax and flute. Performances at schools, concert venues and clubs have established the group as a premiere ensemble for the performance of modern Jazz music.

Bobby Militello - sax and flute George Caldwell - piano Sabu Adeyola - bass John Bacon - drums





# Fairy House Festival - June 12, 2021

Visitors to the 11th annual Fairy House Festival once again marveled at the fairy house creations by both professional and community artists, and enjoyed the whimsical and enchanting Artpark Fairies and roaming musicians outfitted in new costume creations by Uta Bekaia of Tbilisi, Georgia.









Artist salaries funded through the "Artpark Works" program funded by John R. Oishei Foundation, First Niagara Foundation in partnership with KeyBank, and general operating support by M&T Bank and Cullen Foundation

# Uta Bekaia's magical creations







Inspired by ancient mythology, fairy tales, Italian Baroque, and Georgian Dada, Uta Bekaia reinvents and re-stages long lost, neverbefore-documented rituals with his exuberant, sculptural costumes. Bekaia taps into the wisdom and craft of the ancients and imbues it with his own experiences, achieving something both unique and timeless.



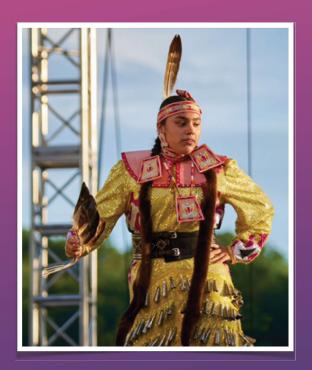


# Strawberry Moon Festival - July 19, 2021

The Strawberry Moon Festival celebrated the indigenous cultures of the Niagara region through storytelling, music, dance, and arts & crafts. A diverse, multi-generational group of attendees were entertained by an eclectic lineup of Native artists, including Martha Redbone Roots Project, Lakota John, Charly Lowry and Tonemah

**The Smoke Dance Competition** featured some of the regions most talented Native dancers and performers.

Experience all the vibrancy of the festival in our gallery on the next page!



# Strawberry Moon Festival Gallery



Back by popular demand, the mesmerizing Smoke Dance Competition thrilled the crowd.



The matriarchal journey of the region's Indigenous community on proud display





In addition to storytelling, music and dance, visitors enjoyed an array of arts and crafts, too.

# Strawberry Moon Festival Gallery



Headliner Martha Redbone told stories and performed with the Martha Redbone Roots Project.



Lakota John was nominated for Best Blues Recording in 2015 at the Native American Music Awards (NAMA) in Niagara Falls, NY.



Kiowa/Comanche/Tuscarora performer Tonemah played a style he calls "Native Americana"



Charly Lowry created a compelling mix of hiphop, R&B, soul and Native rhythms and melodies.

### POWER OF NIAGARA

A celebration of arts, nature and a sustainable future August 21, 2021

**Featuring:** Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by JoAnn Falletta, Buffalo String Works, Jon Lehrer Dance Company, and "Branché" by Cirque Barcode & Acting for Climate Montreal









Funded by Regional Economic Development Council, New York Council on the Arts

# Jon Lehrer Dance Company's captivating and evocative numbers, from which audience members drew strength and renewal.

"Power Niagara" was a world premiere performance inspired by the power and majesty of Niagara. With JLDC's trademark combination of artistry, athleticism, and accessibility, this breathtaking performance inspired and entertained, speaking to audiences of all backgrounds and dance experience. Collaborating on *The Power of Niagara* with Jon Lehrer was set designer Dyan Burlingame and costume designer Laura Vanner. Both artists have worked extensively with JLDC and together they created a true spectacle on the outdoor stage at Artpark. Music inspired by the Niagara region as well as evokes the strength and beauty of water created a luscious soundscape that the performers and audience were swept up in. The combination of all these elements along with Artpark's natural beauty and commitment to producing one-of-a-kind art, brought about a truly awe-inspiring event.





### Power of Niagara: BRANCHÉ by Cirque Barcode





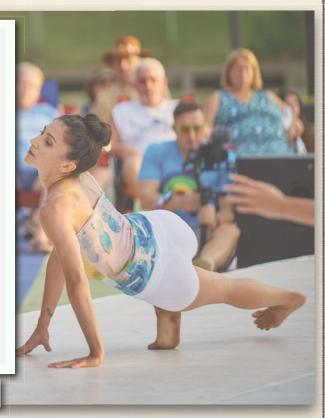
## What people are saying: Power of Niagara and Artpark

'After 40 years of living away from the area I returned 3 weeks ago to live. As a young girl we used to swim in the Niagara River in Lewiston.

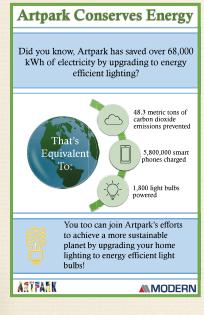
Tonight, friends and I attended the Artpark presentation of Power of Niagara. The Lehrer Dance Company fully captured symbolically through synchronized dance, music and energy what the Niagara evokes. Have you ever noticed how the river can flow in 2 directions? Or when it thunders the sound ricochets off the gorge? Both of these elements were captured in this production. The ever-changing colors of the river was brought out by the vivid flowing costumes of the dancers.

This was a true gift to attend and brought back many fond memories."

-Susan Daley Bray



On this special day, Artpark & Company and Modern Corporation are announcing a joint commitment toward making Artpark a more sustainable place for nature, art and performance. Join us in celebrating the energy savings achieved through sustainable lighting replacements! With an understanding of the impacts of our decisions on the environment, we endeavor to transform our practices to be the best partners along with artists and park visitors to pass on a thriving and sustainable Artpark to the next generation!







### BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA JoAnn Falletta, conductor

CHRISTOPHER ROGERSON: Among Mountains

GRIEG: Suite No. 1 from Peer Gynt, Op. 46

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 6 in F major, Op. 68, "Pastoral"

At the beginning of the night, the Buffalo String Works presented their best students with the BPO watching over them. Buffalo String Works' mission is to deliver world class music education to diverse youth that inspires personal and community transformation. We provide rigorous music instruction and a creative home for 96 refugee, immigrant, and historically marginalized youth. We recognize the significance of music as a universal language, and by lifting up the voices of our students and parents, we cultivate youth to be agents of social change.



## Concerts at Artpark: Rancid and Dropkick Murphys

Tim Armstrong is one of the two original members who took to the Artpark stage with West Coast punk pioneers Rancid.



# Concerts at Artpark: Rancid and Dropkick Murphys



# Concerts at Artpark: Phoebe Bridgers





### 2021 SCHEDULE:

JUL 31	CHICAGO	
AUG 3	BROTHERS OSBORNE	
AUG 24	MELISSA ETHERIDGE	
AUG 27	KING CRIMSON	
AUG 29	BLUES TRAVELER	
CED 7	COVIT MI II E	
AUG 30	GLASS ANIMALS	
SEPT 17	BRETT YOUNG	



2021 SCHEDULE:

JUL1	BLACKBERRY SMOKE
JUL 6	FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS
JUL 14	LETTUCE
JUL 27	BRIGHT EYES
AUG 20	JOE RUSSO'S ALMOST DEAD
AUG 22	DROPKICK MURPHYS & RANCID
AUG 26	WILCO + SLEATER-KINNEY
SEP1	HALESTORM
SEP 15	PHOEBE BRIDGERS







### **MURMURATION**

Murmuration was designed by the architectural firm SO – IL, a gift from Artist and transfer from High Museum in Atlanta, GA

A 2,350-square-foot mesh canopy that evokes the environment of neighboring trees. This sculptural pavilion, complete with feeding stations and perches, also reflects upon the loss of billions of birds in recent decades. Visitors are invited to "perch and nest" alongside the birds in this outdoor mesh canopy.





About SO – IL.

Lead Architect on Artpark's current Master Plan, SO – IL (Solid Objectives – Idenburg Liu) is the Brooklyn-based architectural firm founded by Florian Idenburg and Jing Liu in 2008. With their highly original voice, Idenburg and Liu help communities connect to their environments through collaboration and participation. Their experiential architectural projects make use of ambiguity and interpretation, allowing for a study of contrasts to emerge. SO – IL believes that meaningful architecture can develop out of the confluence of universal concepts and local specificities, engendering conversations around issues facing society today.

Artpark installation funded by: Charles D and Mary A Bauer Foundation, and Artpark Board of Directors, with a special thank you for the generous gift of rights & original installation by SO-IL and the High Museum, Atlanta, GA

### **MURMURATION**











# UNITY IN DIVERSITY

A wayfinding mural by Muhammad Z Zaman Artpark's 2021 Summer Artist-in-Residence







Stroll along a rainbow path created by 2021 Summer Artist-in-Residence Muhammad Z Zaman, where one can find Unity in Diversity. Inspired by ancient practices and urban techniques, Zaman weaves a unique narrative through layer upon layer of joyful colors and patterns, which show the importance of mutual respect, despite the seeming impossibility of communicating or understanding each other. Fusing elements from English, Bangla, and Arabic, the mural is an invitation of hope that humanity will be stronger with mutual connection and inclusiveness.

"I will never forget my experience painting this Mural at Artpark," said Muhammad Zaman. "I received some feedback from the people who were walking in the park, and this is something really special to me. They were attracted by the joyful colors and because they've never seen anything like it. Having the chance to paint in such a beautiful and peaceful environment was really inspiring."

The creation of cultural experiences in nature such as these is part of what makes Artpark a singular institution, and it would be our pleasure to celebrate these new installations with you.



Funded as part of Artpark Works program by First Niagara Foundation in partnership with Keybank and John R. Oishei Foundation

# Bold change requires a leap of faith ...











But if we trust our artists and our patrons, they won't let us down

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