

NATURE INFUSED

by Maya Lee, Strathmore 2022 Summer Intern

Each interaction between artist and audience is a living, breathing affirmation that shared artistic experience is catalyzing. Strathmore believes that artists create the most compelling contemplations of our world, and amplifying these creative voices is at the heart of Strathmore's mission.

This season, Strathmore begins an exploration of artistic work about the natural world by artists who honor and advocate for the earth. "So many artists have a reverence and love for nature. This exploration delves into works for the stage that are both exemplary in their artistry and highlight the human relationship to the natural world," says Strathmore's Artistic Director, Joi Brown. "Experiencing the artist's perspective presents an opportunity for attendees to contemplate their own role within the world and environment." Some of these artists and works generate an awareness of and share a passion for nature, while others examine the nuances of the climate crisis and advocate for change.

In the fall, Maestra Marin Alsop returns to the Concert Hall to conduct the **São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra (OSESF)**. Under Alsop's direction, OSESF will perform key symphonic, vocal, and chamber works

by six Brazilian composers. The Brazilian orchestra is uniquely positioned to sweep the audience out of their seats and into the rolling hills and vibrant rainforest of the musicians' homeland. Against the backdrop of the devastation of the Amazon rainforest, OSESF authentically honors their land and identity in this immersive, multimedia ode to the Brazilian landscape.

Patrons can then head over to the Mansion and Galleries to learn how artists play a role in protecting these landscapes in an upcycled textile exhibition by members of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA). Most textile and fabric waste ends up in landfills. **Purpose-Repurpose**, a tri-regional exhibition with BlackRock Center for the Arts, shows how SAQA fiber artists continue the rich tradition of incorporating upcycled material in a tribute to the ever-changing fine art of textiles.

In February, Strathmore presents local composer and jazz drummer **Allison Miller's *In Our Veins: Rivers and Social Change***. In a multimedia production inspired by the sights, sounds, and rhythms of five North American rivers, Miller combines jazz music with tap dance and video projections to create an exciting multisensory experience that supports her environmental activism.



The Music Center at Strathmore

ARTS

Artists honor nature from around the world through music, art, and multimedia.



Angélique Kidjo



Allison Miller and Boom Tic Boom with video projections by Todd Winkler



São Paulo Symphony Orchestra
Marilyn Alsop, conductor



Purpose-Repurpose by Paula Koviak

Originally from Washington, DC, Miller often collaborates with Toshi Reagon, co-creator of Octavia E. Butler’s *Parable of the Sower* opera, which Strathmore was fortunate enough to present this past spring. Strathmore is relentlessly committed to exploring new ways to connect and build upon the radiating impact of the arts. The themes of resilience and environmentalism in Reagon’s work continue to pulse through Strathmore’s team and community.

Another friend of Strathmore, internationally acclaimed Beninese singer-songwriter and activist **Angélique Kidjo** rounds out this provocative and engaging tour. Kidjo has long embraced the power of her artistic platform to heighten awareness of social and environmental issues. She performs her Grammy-winning global music album *Mother Nature*, a pop- and Afrobeat-inspired album celebrating the earth’s endangered gifts and calling for policy change to protect them.

Looking to these inspiring examples, Strathmore considers the organization’s own relationship to the environment. These programs are just the start of a multi-year examination of the environment through artistic expression. Strathmore is also eager to explore this theme within educational programs and as part of the upcoming Music in the Mansion series. In the

months ahead, look for more work by artists who draw themes and inspiration from the earth. Brown says, “There is nothing quite like the immersive quality of art that sweeps you up and reveals a different perspective of the world we share.”

PURPOSE-REPURPOSE! STUDIO ART QUILT ASSOCIATES

Wed, Sept 7–Sat, Oct 29
Opening Reception: Wed, Sept 14

SÃO PAULO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MARIN ALSOP, CONDUCTOR

Wed, Oct 12

ALLISON MILLER IN OUR VEINS: RIVERS & SOCIAL CHANGE

Fri, Feb 10

ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO

Thu, June 15

Nature themed programming made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Kathleen Knepper.

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