

Press Release, Wednesday 15 June 2022

SUMMER 2022 AT SERPENTINE

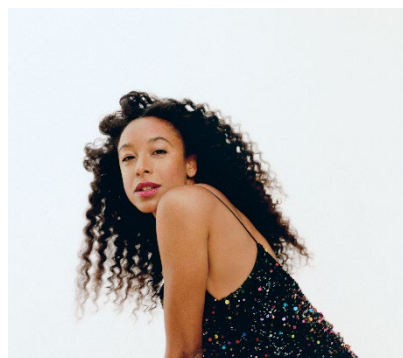
POLYPHONIC LIVE PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED FOR THEASTER GATES' SERPENTINE PAVILION 2022

FILMS, EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC, POETRY, SPOKEN WORD, WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCES FROM JUNE TO OCTOBER

Highlights include a sound installation from Brian Eno, a performance from two-time GRAMMY award-winning singer Corinne Bailey-Rae, the London premiere of renowned climate opera *Sun & Sea*, the return of *Park Nights*, and *Queer Earth and Liquid Matters*, a two-day event investigating the climate crisis through the lens of transformation

Until Saturday 15 October 2022

Press images available at serpentinegalleries.org/press



Images - clockwise:

- (1) Brian Eno © Shamil Tanna.
- (2) Corinne Bailey Rae © Ulrike Rindermann
- (3) *Bye earth, sea and air we came*, video, 18 minutes, Adham Faramawy, 2021. © Serpentine and the artist.
- (4) *Sun & Sea*. © Elon-Shoenholz, Los Angeles, October 2021.
- (5) Roscoe Mitchell © Joseph Blough.



This summer, Serpentine will present an exciting programme of events staged around ***Black Chapel***, the 21st Serpentine Pavilion designed by Theaster Gates, and Serpentine's exhibitions **Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster: *Alienarium 5*** (on until 4 September at Serpentine South) and ***Back to Earth***, a new exhibition and live programme responding to the climate emergency (on from 22 June - 18 September at Serpentine North).

Featuring **experimental music performances, clay workshops, queer activations, jazz and choir concerts, film premieres, symposia, panel discussions, poetry readings and a Japanese tea ceremony**, the dynamic live programme will be an invitation to see, hear and dance. The live programme will run from June to October.

Bettina Korek and Hans Ulrich Obrist said: "We're thrilled to launch Serpentine's multidisciplinary and experimental summer live programme. It's an honour to invite such amazing artists and performers to stage a constellation of exciting events. We can't wait for audiences to experience these remarkable and innovative works at Serpentine and further locations across London."

Conceived as a space for gathering, meditation and participation, with an emphasis on sacred music, ***Black Chapel*** will become a platform for Serpentine's live programme throughout the summer and beyond, offering reflection, connection and joy to the public. Highlights will include performances by **Corinne Bailey-Rae, The Choir of London Oratory, Moses Boyd and The Black Monks**.

Since 2002, ***Park Nights*** has presented new works across art, music, film, theatre, dance, literature, philosophy, fashion and technology. Each year's commissions are conceived in response to the Pavilion and offer audiences unique ways to experience architecture and performance. The programme has supported many artists in the early stages of their careers as well as pioneering writers and thinkers from around the world. This year's programme will include **Roscoe Mitchell, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Josiane M.H. Pozi and Standing On The Corner Art Ensemble**.

Coinciding with the ***Back to Earth*** exhibition, ***Back to Earth LIVE*** will bring together Serpentine's vast network of individuals and organisations involved in tackling the environmental crisis in an extensive and ambitious 3-month programme of talks, performances and debates, including the UK premiere of the award-winning opera performance ***Sun & Sea***, the environmental justice public gathering, ***Queer Earth and Liquid Matters, Equilibrium***, and newly commissioned performances and activations by **Brian Eno, Himali Singh Soin and Bones Tan Jones**.

Booking is essential and full details follow below.

For more information or to request press tickets, please contact:

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JUNE

Wednesday 8 June, 2pm
Friday 10 June, 6pm – 9pm
Saturday 11 June, 2pm
Thursday 23 June – Sunday 10 July
Friday 24 June, 8pm

Serpentine Pavilion: Architect's Talk
Public Preview of Serpentine Pavilion 2022
Serpentine Pavilion: Notes from The Vernon Spring
The Albany: Sun & Sea, plus Scorching Suns, Rising Seas
Serpentine Pavilion: Park Nights: Roscoe Mitchell

HIGHLIGHTS

The programme will feature the UK premiere of the award-winning opera performance *Sun & Sea* by visual artist and composer **Lina Lapelyte**, writer and poet **Vaiva Grainytė** and film / theatre director **Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė**, curated by **Lucia Pietroiusti**, Founder of Serpentine's *General Ecology* programme. Hosted at **The Albany, Lewisham, London, from 23 June to 10 July**, the show is **co-presented by LIFT, the Albany and Serpentine** as part of LIFT 2022, *Back to Earth* and *We Are Lewisham*. *We Are Lewisham* is presented by Lewisham Council, in partnership with the Albany. Lewisham is the London Borough of Culture 2022, a Mayor of London initiative. As part of the *Sun & Sea* live programme (23 June – 10 July 2022), *Scorching Suns, Rising Seas*, a public engagement programme deepening themes of environmental justice for the show, will include free film screenings taking place at The Albany, Lewisham, as well as a public symposium at Serpentine on Saturday 9 July.

This year's *Park Nights* will be kickstarted by a performance by **musician and composer Roscoe Mitchell** on Friday 24 June. Mitchell is an internationally renowned musician, composer and innovator who also serves as the Darius Milhaud Chair of Composition at Mills College in California. His virtuosic resurrection of overlooked woodwind instruments spanning extreme registers, visionary solo performances and assertion of a hybrid compositional/improvisational paradigm have placed him at the forefront of contemporary music and avant-garde jazz. Mitchell is a founding member of the world-renowned Art Ensemble of Chicago, the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians and the Trio Space. This performance is presented in partnership with the **London Contemporary Music Festival and Wigmore Hall**.

JULY

Saturday 9 July, 9:30am
Saturday 16 July, 12pm
Saturday 16 – Sunday 17 July, 11am – 7pm
Thursday 21 July, 7pm

Friday 22 July, 8pm
Wednesday 27 July, 8pm

Serpentine Pavilion: Equilibrium
Serpentine Pavilion: Tea Ceremonies: Japan
Stone Nest: *Queer Earth and Liquid Matters*
Ciné Lumière, Institut français du Royaume-Uni:
Manthia Diawara: *A Letter from Yene*, Film Premiere
Serpentine Pavilion: Park Nights: Linton Kwesi Johnson
Serpentine Pavilion: Moses Boyd



HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday 9 July, concluding *Scorching Suns, Rising Seas*, a public gathering convening artists, filmmakers, policymakers, scientists and writers to engage with issues around environmental justice on diverse scales will take centre stage. Participants will include activist **Rosamund Kissi-Debrah**, climate scientist **Tim Lenton**, novelist **Ayanna Lloyd Banwo**, Stop Ecocide co-founder **Jojo Mehta**, musical artist **Love Ssega**, legal practitioner **Philippe Sands**, photographer **Sarah Stirk**, jazz educators **Tomorrow's Warriors**, and others to be announced. It is curated by **Radical Ecology**, in partnership with **LIFT 2022**, Serpentine's *Back to Earth* project, We Are Lewisham, University of Exeter's Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter Arts & Culture, University College London's Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Race & Racialisation, Open Society Foundations, Lewisham Migrants & Refugee Network and UCL Anthropocene.

Queer Earth and Liquid Matters presented in collaboration with **Stone Nest** and **QUEERCIRCLE**, will be dedicated to transformation, queerness, the natural and unnatural, wild, decolonial, Indigenous and submerged perspectives. Curated by **Macarena Gómez-Barris**, **Jack Halberstam** and **Kostas Stasinopoulos**, the programme will bring together artists, writers, filmmakers, sound designers and practitioners to explore what falls outside the category of the human, decolonial, queer and social ecologies, visions and experiences of apocalypse, as well as Indigenous refusal and outrage and the consequences of extractive capitalism. As part of *Back to Earth LIVE*, *Queer Earth and Liquid Matters* will dive into issues of wildness, transitivity, decoloniality, land and water struggles, and how queer/trans Indigenous embodiment complicates many of the dualities of the Western ontology. The programme will feature talks, performances, film and more from a stellar list of participants including **Xavi Aguirre**, **Seba Calfuqueo**, **Adham Faramawy**, **Ash Fure**, **Macarena Gómez-Barris**, **Jack Halberstam**, **Victoria Hunt**, **Bhanu Kapil**, **Juan Francisco Salazar**, **P. Staff**, **Bones Tan Jones** and more to be announced.

Also part of the *Back to Earth LIVE* series, on Thursday 21 July, Serpentine will present the international film premiere for **Manthia Diawara**'s commission for *Back to Earth. A Letter from Yene* emerges from conversations with the community in which Diawara lives for part of the year, in the seaside town of Yene in Senegal, primarily occupied by fishermen and farmers but recently besieged by coastal erosion and uncontrolled urbanisation. A changing coastline, a deprived sea, disappearing rituals and new professions emerging out of the climate emergency form the landscape of Diawara's *Back to Earth* film, commissioned by Serpentine, MUBI and PCAI Polygreen Culture & Art Initiative.

Diawara's reflexive documentary unfolds as if it were a letter written to the viewer. Following encounters between the fishermen, pebble collectors and himself, Diawara explores what it means that they all collectively and unknowingly contribute to the undermining of that same environment through their different daily activities. How do their exchanges generate change and impact their different understanding of what surrounds them? How can they build a political solidarity and come together with the land and sea as equal partners?

On Saturday 16 July, Serpentine will present a **ritualistic tea ceremony** held in the Serpentine Pavilion 2022, *Black Chapel*, designed by Theaster Gates. This ceremony will be held by **Keiko Uchida**, a qualified Japanese tea ceremony master who has practised for 25 years. Born in Tokyo, Japan, Uchida comes from a lineage of Kimono specialists and traditional tearoom artisans. Uchida will



invite visitors to listen as she orates the history and philosophy of Japanese tea culture that initially developed as a Zen ritual in the 15th century. Visitors can enjoy and engage their full senses as she performs the traditional meditative ritual whilst offering everyone a cup of matcha tea.

Also in July, multi-hyphenate musician **Moses Boyd** will bring his progressive Jazz sound to Serpentine. Hailed as one of the hottest talents of contemporary British Jazz, Boyd will take centre stage offering an experimental solo drum set inspired by his debut album, *Dark Matter*.

In *Alienarium 5*, a number of characters from Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster's immersive 360-degree collage, *Metapanorama*, will appear as Live Apparitions inside her exhibition *Alienarium 5* at Serpentine South. **Gonzalez-Foerster's** 'Apparitions' are an ongoing series of holographic illusions in which the artist conjures various artistic figures, and previously included novelist and poet Emily Brontë (1818-1848) and opera singer Maria Callas (1923-1977).

Serpentine will also host the second performance in the 2022 *Park Nights* series, featuring poet, musician and activist **Linton Kwesi Johnson**. Johnson's poems first appeared in the journal *Race Today* in 1974, and his first LP was released by Virgin in 1978. Born in Jamaica, Johnson moved to London in 1963, attended Tulse Hill secondary school and later studied Sociology at Goldsmiths' College, University of London, where his personal papers are currently held in their archive. While still at school, he joined the Black Panthers, helping to organise a poetry workshop within the movement. Over the last decades, Johnson has released numerous books of poetry including *Mi Revalueshanary Fren* (2002), one of only three books in Penguin's Modern Classics series by a living author, and the only in the series by a Black author. He has recorded and released over fifteen albums including *Dread Beat an' Blood* (1978), *Forces of Victory* (1979), *Bass Culture* (1980), *LKJ in Dub* (1980) and *Making History* (1983).

AUGUST

Saturday 13 August, 3 – 4:30pm

Serpentine Pavilion: The Choir of the London Oratory

HIGHLIGHTS

The Choir of the London Oratory will hallow the chapel with select music from major Roman Catholic liturgies. Internationally renowned as leading exponents of music from the Latin tradition, the Choir of the London Oratory will perform an eclectic tribute, drawn from Gregorian chant and classical polyphony for feasts throughout the year, ranging from deep meditation to brilliant jubilation, and covering a millennium of creativity in sacred music.



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3 September, 2pm
Saturday 10 September, 8pm
Saturday 17 September, 3pm
Friday 30 September, 8pm

Serpentine Pavilion: Clay Play
Serpentine Pavilion: Himali Singh Soin: *Static Range*
Serpentine Pavilion: Bones Tan Jones: *Fertile Souls*
Serpentine Pavilion: Park Nights: Josiane M.H. Pozi

HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday 3 September, South London based community pottery studio **Mud Gang Pottery CIC** will offer workshops to children, families and anyone excited to experiment with clay. Visitors will learn about the foundation of creating ceramics, make something unique and learn about the clay recycling process. In recognition of the *Black Chapel's* inspiration from kilns in **Stoke-on-Trent**, the Pavilion will present an afternoon of accessible pottery in an engaging and relaxed atmosphere. It will also celebrate the artist and ceramist **Theaster Gates'** approach to clay; 'it's not really about the material, it is about our capacity to shape things'. Open to all ages and abilities. Clay and tools will be provided for everyone to experiment.

On Saturday 10 September, Serpentine will present an epistolary performance by **Himali Singh Soin accompanied by drummer David Soin Tappeser** and with interventions by friends. This will be in the context of Soin's *Back to Earth* commission, *Static Range*, a project based on a historical spy-story in the Indian Himalayas. The performance will form a landscape of speculations and reflections on nuclear culture, porosity, leakages, toxicity and love, spiritual-scientific entanglements, environmental catastrophe and post-nation states.

Bones Tan Jones's *Back to Earth* commission will be dedicated to *Fertile Souls*, a survival skills share collective founded in 2019 seeking to queer the idea of what survival could look like to a community of queer folks, people of colour and beings who exist beyond the boundaries of society. Through workshops such as sound healing, astrology, body healing rituals, instrument making, vocal resonance, herbal medicine resource sharing and more, *Fertile Souls* will share ways in which we could take our healing into our own hands, and nurture ourselves within the ever-growing dystopian landscape. Bones Tan Jones will present an activation of *Fertile Souls* aligned with the pagan wheel of the year, the solstices and equinoxes, and all ceremonial dates in between.

To conclude the month, for *Park Nights* on Friday 30 September, Serpentine will present a new commission by artist and filmmaker **Josiane M.H. Pozi**. Over the past year, her work has appeared at institutions including Somerset House, London; Kunsthau Glarus; Stadtgalerie Bern; The Shed, New York; and previously in the performance *Lifetime* in collaboration with musician Klein at Serpentine Park Nights, London (2019). She has been featured in solo exhibitions at Carlos/Ishikawa, London, and Buchholz Galerie, Berlin. Pozi has made music videos and concert visuals and contributed footage to projects by musicians including **Klein, Moses Boyd, Jawno and Four Tet**.



OCTOBER

Thursday 13 October, 8pm
Friday 14 October, 6:30pm
October

Standing On The Corner Art Ensemble
Serpentine Pavilion: Corinne Bailey Rae
The Black Monks

HIGHLIGHTS

Park Nights 2022 concludes with a performance by **Standing On The Corner**, an Earth based Art Ensemble founded in 2016 by Shamel Cee Mystery, AKA Gio Escobar. Inspired by, made for, and consisting of the resilience and upheaval of all people of the African diaspora, Standing On The Corner thrives in fugitivity: they can appear on any particular night as the beat of one drum, as an orchestra of 30, or as a ghost entirely, but always on the run. The ensemble produces musical, visual and experiential works that equate hyperlocal incidence to cosmological wisdom. Visiting sites of emotional resonance under the weight of subjective histories and traumas, the Art Ensemble seeks to uncover the mysteries and the ghosts of hidden truths through focused interpretation.

On Friday 14 October, two-time GRAMMY award-winning singer and songwriter **Corinne Bailey Rae** will perform at sunset under the **Serpentine Pavilion 2022** for an acoustic performance of selected works. The performance will feature Rae's dulcet tones accompanying the guitar as she sings a set from her illustrious discography to an intimate audience. Guests will witness a beautiful bearing of the soul as Rae shares her life through candid chronicles centred on love, heartbreak, vulnerability and hope. The revered musician and luminescent talent will be performing works in honour of *Black Chapel*.

To complete Serpentine's Summer Programme 2022, artist and Serpentine Pavilion 2022 designer **Theaster Gates** will bring his monastic musical order, **The Black Monks**, to Britain to testify their sound. Soulful sonic experiments will combine southern musical traditions, jazz, blues and more. Founded in 2009, The Black Monks 'simultaneously achieve holiness and humanness, restraint and ecstasy'. The collective is a meditation on sound, harmonising to create something familiar yet refreshing. Audiences will experience their performance in wonder as musical fellowship ascends through the verticality of the Serpentine Pavilion roof, and opens out to the sky, taking passage through the central oculus designed by Gates.

Events will be free unless stated. Full details will be announced on serpentinegalleries.org in the coming weeks.



NOTES TO EDITORS

About Serpentine

Championing new ideas in contemporary art since 1970, Serpentine has presented pioneering exhibitions for half a century from a wide range of emerging practitioners to the most internationally recognised artists of our time.

Across two sites only 5 minutes apart, in London's Kensington Gardens, the Serpentine presents a year-round, free programme of exhibitions, architecture, education, live events and technological innovation, in the park and beyond.

Proud to maintain free access for all visitors, thanks to its unique location the Serpentine also reaches an exceptionally broad audience and maintains a deep connection with its local community.

About *Back to Earth*

Back to Earth is a multi-year project that invites over sixty leading artists, architects, poets, filmmakers, scientists, thinkers and designers to respond to the environmental crisis. With the support of partner organisations and networks, these collaborators are devising artistic campaigns, protocols and initiatives.

Interdisciplinary at its core, *Back to Earth* manifests throughout all of Serpentine's onsite, offsite and online programmes, sharing its resources in order to amplify ongoing projects or campaigns around the climate emergency, as well as to develop new ones. *Back to Earth* considers ecology as embedded in everyday practices and agencies.

Back to Earth is a programme about change and a catalyst for change. Echoing the global response to the climate crisis, *Back to Earth* is a complex web of interconnected research, interventions and activities. The project asks: What new ecosystems can foster agency within organisations? Which kinds of research-sharing, resource-sharing and collaborative working practices are necessary to present complex responses to complex problems? How can arts institutions bring visibility to climate actions that create positive change for communities, places and imaginations around the world?

The programme emerged out of Serpentine's long-standing engagement with the topics of extinction and the disappearance of species, knowledges and customs, which began with the 2014 Extinction Marathon, co-curated with artist Gustav Metzger, as well as out of General Ecology, Serpentine's overarching environmental research project. Collaborators include Judy Chicago, Sir David Adjaye, Vivienne Westwood, Etel Adnan and Olafur Eliasson.

About *Black Chapel*, the 21st Serpentine Pavilion

Black Chapel draws inspiration from many of the architectural typologies that ground the artist's practice. The structure references the bottle kilns of Stoke-on-Trent in England, **the beehive kilns of the Western United States, San Pietro and the Roman tempiettos and traditional African**



building structures such as the Musgum mud huts of Cameroon and the Kasabi Tombs of Kampala, Uganda.

Drawn to the transcendental environment of the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas, **Gates has produced a series of new tar paintings especially for *Black Chapel*.** Determined to create a space that reflects the artist's hand and sensibilities, seven panels hang from the interior structure. In these works, Gates honours his father's craft as a roofer and uses roofing strategies and torch down, which requires an open flame to heat the material and affix it to the surface.

An operating bronze bell, salvaged from St. Laurence, a landmark Catholic Church that once stood in Chicago's South Side, stands next to the entrance of the Pavilion. Underscoring the erasure of spaces for convening and spiritual communion in urban communities, the historic bell acts as a call to assembly, congregation and contemplation throughout the summer's events.

The Serpentine Pavilion 2022 is open every day from 10am to 6pm.

Gates' Serpentine Pavilion 2022: *Black Chapel* follows *The Question of Clay*, a multi-institution project featuring exhibitions at Whitechapel Gallery (September 2021 – January 2022), White Cube (September – October 2021) and a two-year long research project at the V&A.

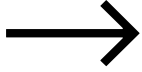
About Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster: *Alienarium 5*

Alienarium 5 is a major exhibition by leading artist Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster. On display at Serpentine South until 4 September 2022, this is the artist's first major institutional solo show in the UK since TH.2058 at Tate Modern's Turbine Hall in 2008.

Following a long line of projects such as Cosmodrome at Le Consortium in 2001 (Dijon, France), Chronotypes & Dioramas at Dia Art Foundation (New York, 2009), Pynchon Park at MAAT (Lisbon, 2017) and Martian Dreams Ensemble at GFZK (Leipzig, 2018), *Alienarium 5* is a vision resulting from over twenty years of Gonzalez-Foerster's explorations into science-fiction and alien life, and her experiments in deep space. Conceived specifically for Serpentine, the exhibition features almost entirely new work engaging both the gallery's internal and external spaces. *Alienarium 5* is a speculative environment in which to imagine possible encounters with extra-terrestrials.

Stone Nest is an arts organisation and performance venue in the heart of London's West End, bringing exceptional and experimental art to a wide audience. A hidden gem nestled amidst the bright lights of theatreland, it offers a platform for bold, visionary artists and a space where audiences can encounter an eclectic programme of contemporary performance.

QUEERCIRCLE seeks to develop an ecology of artists, curators, writers, thinkers, community organisers, grassroots organisations and charities who collectively work together to strengthen links between culture, health and wellbeing. Since 2016, QUEERCIRCLE has hosted exploratory workshops and events with artists, curators, writers and community organisers to develop a programme that is befitting to the needs and aspirations of the LGBTQ+ community. Our new home opens its door in June 2022, providing a holistic environment which celebrates queer identity, champions arts and culture, and supports the wellbeing of our community.



For more information or to request press tickets, please contact:

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