EARTH DAY 2019: NOURISHING CHANGE THROUGH THE ARTS

MONDAY, APRIL 22: 4 - 7 PM

Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College
72 Porter Field Rd, Middlebury, VT

What is the relationship between human beings and the planet? Join us as we address this question in conversation and through the art of students, faculty, and professionals in dance, music, and visual art.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ACT 1: MAC PLAZA

WELCOME & DEDICATION  4:00
OPENING REMARKS, MARC LAPIN
DEDICATION OF PERENNIAL SILPHIUM SUNFLOWERS
POETRY READING "ODE TO DIRT", SHARON OLDS
DANCE PERFORMANCE
PROFESSOR KARIMA BORNI & STUDENTS

ACT 2: MAC 2ND FLOOR LOBBY

EMERGENT UNIVERSE ORATORIO  4:30
SAM GUARNACCIA, COMPOSER
DEBORAH FELMETH, ORATOR
TIM GUILES, PIANO ACCOMPANIST

The oratorio is a marriage of science and art. It contributes significantly to spreading an evidence based and artistically compelling understanding of our origins, place, and role in an evolving Universe. The Emergent Universe Oratorio brings a new experience and understanding of the steps that have brought us here now. The scientific accuracy of the libretto coupled with a superb musical score offers a unique insight into why Carl Sagan said that we are all made of star dust — and much more.

samguarnaccia.com

ACT 3: MAC 2ND FLOOR LOBBY

STUDENT PERFORMANCES  5:00

function
An electronic music piece
soundcloud.com/distancehasaway

"Rock" & Berries
Poetry readings

"Prevention Through Deterrence"
A personal story

"Home on a Tightrope"
A personal story
facebook.com/mydearworld98

Pinus Contorta
A dance performance

.... JEFF HOLLAND '19
.... ARIADNE WILL '22
.... OMAR VALENCE '19
.... COOPER SIEGEL '20
.... KAILA THOMAS '21 & EMMA KNOKE '21.5
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ACT 4: MAC 1ST FLOOR LOBBY

ART FOR BRAINS
GLENN MCCLURE
artforbrains.com

ENV. ART/SCULPTURES
NANCY WINSHIP MILLIKEN
nancymilliken.com

ACT 5: MAC 1ST FLOOR LOBBY

PANEL
NADINE CANTER BARNICLE (MODERATOR)
CAMERON DAVIS, VISUAL ARTIST
SAM GUARNACCIA, COMPOSER
REED MARTIN '19
LEV SPENCER SNYDER '20.5
BILL VITEK, PHILOSOPHER

RECEPTION

VISUAL ART ON DISPLAY

REHEARSALS CAFE
In a Riptide & Body of Blues
Morning Moment
keatoneillizabethphotography.com
cover me in mountains (2)
Cynthia Laying Down & Cynthia Standing
rachelaurora.com

LOWER LOBBY
Davi Prayer
camerondavissstudio.com

.... RAINED ELLISON '19
.... KEATON SMITH '21
.... REED MARTIN '19
.... RACHEL NELSON '18
.... CAMERON DAVIS
This is a day to celebrate the arts in honor of the Earth.
Thank you for taking part.

ODE TO DIRT

Sharon Olds

Dear dirt, I am sorry I slighted you,
I thought that you were only the background
for the leading characters—the plants
and animals and human animals.
It’s as if I had loved only the stars
and not the sky which gave them space
in which to shine. Subtle, various,
sensitive, you are the skin of our terrain,
you’re our democracy. When I understood
I had never honored you as a living
equal, I was ashamed of myself,
as if I had not recognized
a character who looked so different from me,
but now I can see us all, made of the
same basic materials—
cousins of that first exploding from nothing—
in our intricate equation together. O dirt,
help us find ways to serve your life,
you who have brought us forth, and fed us,
and who at the end will take us in
and rotate with us, and wobble, and orbit.

Life on Earth is, without exception, tethered to cyclical ecosystems. Decay and regeneration are laws of life. A Fall 2018 course *The Perennial Turn in Ag and Culture* (ENVS332) examined how much of human agriculture has failed to live up to the needs of the land that underpin perennial regeneration, gradually stripping the soil of its strength and nutrients. The course explored what it means to think perennially and use nature as our measure and teacher in human endeavors such as: 1) agro and food systems; 2) the creative and healing arts; 3) teaching and learning; and, 4) communities of faith. Eighteen students and three professors worked with thirteen community partners in these areas to consider how these humans systems and organizations would respond to ideas of perenniality. They found that perennial agriculture has the potential to undo some of the damage we’ve caused and to serve as a metaphor for a shift in our cultural paradigms. We all have heard about the need to be sustainable to combat climate change, but is this enough? Perhaps what is needed is an active investment in the future of the land and human cultures so future generations may be spared suffering. From these ideas, the Creative Arts team of students and partners dreamed up this event, and here we are today.