

In 2021, Stone Quarry welcomed visiting artists Annie Mitchell, Firat Erdim, Paula Matthusen, and Jessica Hyatt. Artistic director Sayward Schoonmaker collaborated with former visiting artist Kim Waale to develop a site-specific sculpture project with art students from Cazenovia College.

Works



Annie Mitchell, *Clavaria*, fiber optic cable, original audio, 2021

Los Angeles-based light and sound artist Annie Mitchell brought her latest work to the park in the form of a floating fiber optic light sculpture. A custom system containing LEDs inside small, flexible, lightweight bars illuminate long tentacles of fiber optics that terminate at delicate hand-made fungal sculptures. Working in harmony with the natural world, the form and energy of her work becomes dependent on the environment for composition.

Borrowing from a fungus endemic to central New York, Mitchell titles the piece, 'Clavaria'. Her work aims to attune us to the environment, to each other, just as mycorrhizal networks connect individual plants together to transfer water, carbon, nitrogen, and other nutrients and minerals. Mitchell sees the plant world as a site of teaching for humanity: "The network encourages empathy in the plant world, a shared consciousness, a shared mission. If help is needed the message goes out and neighboring plants act. Plants will share resources. It's fascinating and relevant. We should be tuning in to each other like that. And I believe we can."

Annie Mitchell's *Clavaria* invites synchronicities and resonances between us and the environment's resplendence. The work offers a distinct opportunity to experience an empathetic bridge between the constellation of beings, seen and unseen, known and unknown.

Firat Erdim & Paula Matthusen, *Kite Choir*, custom built musical instruments, kites, solar balloon, original score, 2021

The Kite Choir is an ensemble of custom-made kites and sound instruments that build upon traditions of singing kites. The sound instruments of Kite Choir utilize the reel and entire tow-line of the kite as the sites of instrumentation, to promote a collaborative chain of agency between atmosphere and pilot/performer. It functions as a regime of perception, an aesthetic practice of attunement with the atmosphere.

The instruments developed so far include ribbon tow-lines attached to contact mics and portable mini-amps; tin-can resonator reels; walking harps; acoustic and electric “hurdy-gurdy” reels of various sizes and materials. The score for the choir, written by the electroacoustic musician and composer Paula Matthusen, provides a set of instructions contingent upon varying aeolian, climatic, temporal, and psychological conditions.



One cannot choose the how of performance independently of the where and when. The phrase “weather permitting” states a limitation but can also serve as a license. One learns to see the ground and its features – buildings, hills, trees, bodies of water – in terms of the wind. The place is the real body of the instrument. Over the course of this practice, a light breeze in a Venetian alley allowed the first overtones to emerge and the joy of flying in gusty Iowa fog made the static charge of approaching thunderstorms audible. On July 31 2021, Kite Choir played the winds of the Art Park.



Jessica Hyatt, *A Guided Art Experience*, 2021

Visiting teaching artist Jessica Hyatt led Stone Quarry visitors on a guided art experience that combined drawing, writing, and making with porcelain to reflect on time, place, and memory. Participants responded to the grounds by making objects with porcelain, which were later glazed and fired by the artist. This project is ongoing and the porcelain pieces will be sited on the grounds per participants' preference.



Overlook, a site-responsive, multi-media project by Cazenovia College studio art students

Led by professors Kim Waale and Anita Welych and in collaboration with artistic director Sayward Schoonmaker, students conceived of, made formal proposals, made and installed site-responsive sculptures, installations, drawings, and paintings on Stone Quarry grounds.

