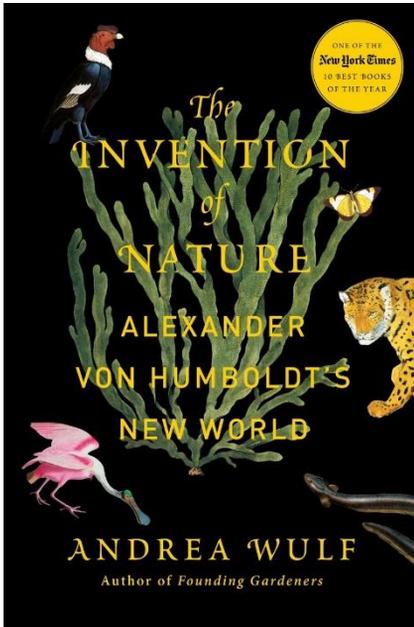


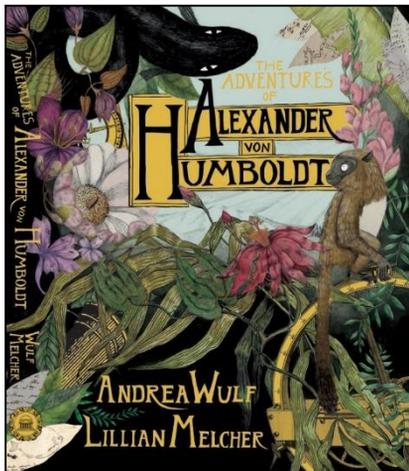
Overview

Date: October 2, 2019

Andrea Wulf will give a talk about Alexander von Humboldt at the Buffalo Museum of Science. We are asking for a blended presentation that highlights material from both her books (see below).



This book tells the story of Alexander von Humboldt's daring exploration through South America (1799–1804). It's a lavishly illustrated full-colour book which includes hundreds of reproductions of Humboldt's own manuscripts, plant specimens, engravings, sketches, maps and drawings. By utilising his original visual material, we tell his story from a completely new perspective, revealing a man who was not only the most famous scientist of his time, but who also believed that the arts and sciences were intrinsically connected. The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt tells a story of hardship, danger, excitement and discovery, but also of Humboldt's encounters with the natural world and the indigenous people of South America. Folded into the narrative is the development of his ideas of nature as a web of life, and of the earth as a living organism, as well as his early warnings of harmful human-induced climate change and environmental destruction.



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Andrea Wulf

The Invention of Nature tells the story of Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), the great thinker and intrepid explorer who has more things named after him than anyone else – from the Humboldt current to towns, rivers, mountain ranges and a penguin. Though almost forgotten today, Humboldt was the most famous scientist of his age. His restless life was packed with adventure and discovery, whether exploring deep into the rainforest or climbing the world's highest volcanoes. He saw nature as a web of life and amazingly predicted harmful human-induced climate change already in 1800. He turned scientific observation into poetic narrative, and his writings inspired naturalists and poets such as Darwin and Goethe but also politicians such as Jefferson. It was Humboldt's influence that led John Muir to his ideas of preservation and that shaped Thoreau's 'Walden'. Wulf traces Humboldt's influences through the great minds he inspired in revolution, evolution, ecology, conservation, art and literature. 'The Invention of Nature' brings this lost hero to science and the forgotten father of environmentalism back to life.