**Contemporary Craft Sets Opening Date**

***Following move from its Strip District home, the arts organization enters a new phase with debut of renovated light manufacturing building in Upper Lawrenceville***

Pittsburgh, PA (August 13, 2020) –The public finally can visit one of its favorite arts organizations again! Contemporary Craft will debut its new building—located at 5645 Butler Street in the hub of the innovation and creativity that is Pittsburgh’s Lawrenceville neighborhood—for the first time on **Thursday, September 3, 2020.** Access to the exhibitions featuring national and international craft artists, hands-on workshops, and The Store ended in October 2019 when the organization closed to make its move from the Strip District. The original opening date of April 25 was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“After 49 years of operation, and despite a long delay due to COVID-19, we are thrilled to finally welcome visitors into our new permanent home. With this transformational move,” said Janet McCall, Executive Director of CC, “Contemporary Craft is growing into something fresh, unexpected, and even more impactful as a community asset. During these uncertain times, the arts can play an even more important role as a resource for well being, hope, and resilience. We believe that visitors will find inspiration and solace in Swoon’s inaugural exhibition.“

As planned, the inaugural exhibition is [***The Heart Lives through The Hands***](https://contemporarycraft.org/exhibition/the-heart-lives-through-the-hands/) by internationally renowned artist [Swoon](https://swoonstudio.org/). In addition to the gallery space, the new CC home includes a makers’ space flooded with natural light and updated equipment, and a store featuring functional and decorative art objects by artists from across the United States. The spectacular new facility brings art into people’s lives and is where art comes to life.

Initially, the art center will be open from Thursdays through Saturdays, from 11 AM to 4 PM with timed-ticketing and other safety protocols in place to provide a safe environment for the public and staff to enjoy art. Timed-ticketing for **free admission** will be available on [CC’s website](http://contemporarycraft.org/) as of Thursday, August 20. With months of planning, CC safety protocols in-place to open on September 3rd include:

* Limiting the number of visitors to 22% building capacity at any one time
* The use of timed ticketing
* Shortened operation hours to 40%
* Enhanced cleaning protocols
* Modification of interactive, high-touch art activity in the Drop-In Studio
* Placement of additional hand sanitizers
* The installation of plexiglass shields at the visitor service desks.
* All visitors and staff will be required to wear face masks and practice social distancing.

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CC is a part of a working group of museums and cultural institutions from across Southwestern Pennsylvania that collaboratively prepares their organizations for safe re-openings. The group started meeting digitally in late March, and it now includes more than 30 different museums and arts organizations that span Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Fayette Counties to share re-opening experiences and to discuss best re-opening practices including visitor guidelines, facilities, staff and volunteers, and diversity and equity issues.

**CONTEMPORARY CRAFT’S INAUGURAL EXHIBITION | FALL/WINTER 2020**

[*The Heart Lives through The Hands*](https://contemporarycraft.org/exhibition/the-heart-lives-through-the-hands/), is a free exhibition that will open in CC’s new Lawrenceville building on September 3. Featured artist Swoon is the first woman to gain large-scale recognition in the male-dominated world of street art. Her cut paper and hand printed works marry the whimsical to the grounded, weaving in fairy tales, myth, and a recurring motif of the sacred feminine. This exhibition addresses relationships between people and their built environment, as well as exploring how creativity can positively impact communities in times of crisis and change. This will be Swoon’s first solo exhibition in Pittsburgh.

For more information about CC’s opening and about its inaugural exhibition, please contact CC’s Marketing Manager Stephanie Sun at [ssun@contemporarycraft.org](mailto:ssun@contemporarycraft.org).

**ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT**

Presenting contemporary art in craft materials by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, Contemporary Craft offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and contemporary art, as well as a range of artist-led studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a store. Located at 5645 Butler Street in Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft’s exhibition and Drop-In Studio are free to the public. For questions related to accessible accommodations, please contact us at [info@contemporarycraft.org](mailto:info@contemporarycraft.org) or visit [www.contemporarycraft.org](http://www.contemporarycraft.org). CC is currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please check CC’s website for updates.

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