

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swoon Exhibition Opens Contemporary Craft's New, Permanent Home

Internationally acclaimed street artist's "The Heart Lives through the Hands" is Contemporary Craft's inaugural exhibition from April 25 through August 21, 2020

PITTSBURGH, PA – March 3, 2020 – Swoon's work is in the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and in the Tate Museum in London. Her exhibitions and projects are seen around the world: Brussels, Melbourne, Miami, Munich, Paris, Prague, Russia, San Francisco, Tokyo, Toronto, and Tunisia. Now, Swoon comes to Pittsburgh to present a free exhibition.

Contemporary Craft's inaugural exhibition in its new, Lawrenceville home - [*The Heart Lives through the Hands*](#), will be Swoon's first solo exhibition in Pittsburgh. This free exhibition will open on Contemporary Craft's [Grand Opening Day](#), April 25 and be on view through August 21.

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. Tendrils of her own family history—and a legacy of her parents' struggles with addiction and substance abuse—recur throughout her work.

Swoon believes that art can ignite change. In *The Heart Lives through The Hands*, her large-scale paper and mixed media artworks and an immersive sculptural installation will address relationships between people and their built environment, as well as exploring how creativity can positively impact communities in times of crisis and change. Through visual storytelling, this exhibition takes a look at the impact of community and how art can support and heal people affected by violence and addiction.

After 33 years in the Strip District's historic Produce Terminal Building, Contemporary Craft has recently relocated to its new, permanent facility in the artistic Lawrenceville neighborhood at 5645 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201. Following a year of renovation and preparation, Contemporary Craft will open its new home to the public on Saturday, April 25, 2020 with the awe-inspiring Swoon exhibition and celebrate creativity and the handcrafted spirit with artist demonstrations, hands-on art activities, and the new Contemporary Craft Store and Studios.

For more high-res images and information on *The Heart Lives through the Hands*, please contact Stephanie Sun at 412.465.1637 or ssun@contemporarycraft.org.



Swoon. *Braddock Steel*.
Photo courtesy of the artist.



Swoon. *Nicole, Mandala (Details)*, 2016. Photo courtesy of the artist.



Photo Courtesy of Bryan Derballa

ABOUT SWOON

Caledonia Curry, whose work appears under the name Swoon, is a Brooklyn-based artist and is widely known as the first woman to gain large-scale recognition in the male-dominated world of street art. Swoon took to the streets of New York while attending the Pratt Institute of Art in 1999, pasting her paper portraits to the sides of buildings with the goal of making art and the public space of the city more accessible. In a moment when contemporary art often holds a conflicted relationship to beauty, Swoon's work carries with it earnestness, treating the beautiful as sublime, even as she explores the darker sides of her subjects.

While much of Swoon's art plays with the fantastical, there is also a strong element of realism. This can be seen in her myriad social endeavors, including a long-term community revitalization project in Braddock, PA and her efforts to build earthquake-resistant homes in Haiti through Konbit Shelter. Her non-profit, the Heliotrope Foundation, was created in order to further support these ventures.

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 the Upper Lawrenceville neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft's exhibition and Drop-In Studio art activity are always free to the public. For questions related to accessible accommodations, please contact us at info@contemporarycraft.org or visit www.contemporarycraft.org.

FUNDERS

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