Welcome to Albright-Knox Northland

WE ARE VERY HAPPY YOU ARE HERE.

Remember, it is important for everyone to stay safe, so make sure you pay attention to all signs and floor markers, and THANK YOU FOR WEARING YOUR MASK! You are helping everyone here by wearing one. Some might even say that you are helping save the day, like a superhero!

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

What would be your story?

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Stories, especially fairy tales and myths, are very important to the artist Caledonia Curry, better known as Swoon. Sometimes artists create new names for themselves, just like superheroes!

Swoon carefully weaves parts of these tales into her beautiful and detailed artworks.
Swoon began her journey as an artist by wheat-pasting portraits to the sides of buildings and walls. She has since created larger works for indoor spaces that explore some tough ideas and questions. For Swoon, one way to respond to and heal from tragedies and hardships is by looking at art and meditating on how the art makes you feel and what it makes you think about.

Today, you’ll see some of Swoon’s questions on banners hanging from the big brick wall near the entrance.

WHEAT PASTE is a glue-like adhesive made from flour or starch and water often used to stick paper to walls.
What is something that helps you feel better?

Does making art help change your mood?

Why or why not?

The artist hopes you will spend the time to **contemplate**, or **think long and hard about**, these questions. That’s why the exhibition’s called Swoon: Seven Contemplations.

**Remember:** there are no right answers to these questions; it is all about your own thoughts and feelings, so whatever your answers are—they are the correct ones for you!

**Let’s go on a journey through Swoon’s works together.**

Remember to explore and imagine, but not to touch. Also, please stay at least six feet away from other visitors.

**Let’s all do our part to stay safe!**

Thanks for being a superhero at Albright-Knox Northland!
To begin our journey, we’re going deep!

In Greek mythology, Thalassa was a sea goddess who occasionally emerged from the water to talk to humans.

Let’s go under the sea to find Thalassa.

Do any parts of this sculpture remind you of the sea?

Does she look like a goddess to you?

Why or why not?
Imagine yourself as a spirit of the sea.

Keep your feet still but move your arms as if you are moving through water. Now try sitting on the floor and move your whole body as if you are underwater.

How does it feel?
What would it be like to live under the sea?

Think about the role water plays in our lives.
How do you use it throughout the day?
Perhaps to drink, brush your teeth, or cook food?

Do you think water is important?

When do you see it outside?
As rain or snow, or at the beach?

Water is a powerful element—we all need it every day—but too much water can cause destruction.

Let's move!
Now it’s time to explore on dry land.

Find Tree of Life and stand on the floor marker near the work.

Think about trees you’ve seen outside. Are they important to your life?

They do very cool things like help us breathe, grow super tall, and produce food, all while weathering every season! The trees around here even stand up to blizzards!

What is the VERY first thing you notice?

Why do you think this caught your eye?

What parts of this sculpture are like a real tree?

What looks different?

Look!

Notice how Swoon made this tree from pieces of fabric.
Now challenge yourself to draw a tree using only geometric shapes like squares, triangles, or circles.

How does your tree look like a real one?

How does it look different?
Remember how Swoon suggested questions to think about with each of these sculptures? One of the questions for this work asks what awe feels like in your body.

**BUT WHAT IS AWE?**
Think of the words “awesome” and “awful,” and how something can inspire awe in positive and negative ways. When something holds you in awe, it can be both scary and wonderful at the same time—like being in space!

**Find the Cosmos and stand on the floor marker near the work.**

Why do you think this work is called Cosmos (which is another word for “universe”)?

**WHAT ABOUT THE COLORS, SHAPES, AND IMAGES REMINDS YOU OF THE UNIVERSE?**

**IMAGINE**

How would you feel way up in space?

**WHAT WOULD YOU SEE?**

What would it feel like to paint or draw with no gravity?

Colored pencils would be floating all over the place!
We have explored several of the artworks in this exhibition, but there is still more to see.

CAN YOU FIND THE WORKS BELOW?

Write down or draw the first thing you notice when you find each work.

Dawn and Gemma and Memento Mori

Medea

Cicada
**Swoon: Seven Contemplations**
September 26, 2020–January 10, 2021

**At-Home Art Activity**
Create art while listening to music that makes you feel happy or relaxed and write your own contemplations for the work. What would you want your family and friends to think about when experiencing your art?

**Captions**

1. Detail from wallpaper design for *Swoon: Seven Contemplations*
2. Photograph by Chia Messina
3. Installation view of *The Ice Queen* in Tunisia, 2014
4. Installation view of *Edline* in New Orleans. Photograph by Tiffany Bishop
5. *Cosmos,* 2019. Metal wood assemblage with cut paper, block print, silkscreen, and paint, 70 x 70 inches (177.8 x 177.8 cm).
7. Installation view of *Tree of Life,* 2014-20, as part of *Swoon: Submerged Motherlands* at the Brooklyn Museum (April 11–August 24, 2014). Photograph by Tod Seelie
8. Detail from *Cosmos,* 2019
11. Still from *Cicada,* 2017–19. Stop-motion animation, sound design by Brian Bo; running time: 17 minutes, 17 seconds.

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