

# Family Guide



**SWOON**

**SEVEN CONTEMPLATIONS**



Albright-Knox  
**Northland**

# Welcome to Albright-Knox Northland

WE ARE VERY  
HAPPY YOU  
ARE HERE.

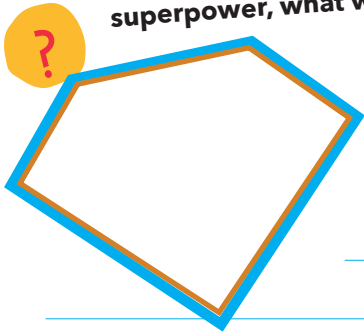
**Remember, it is important for everyone to stay safe,**

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.



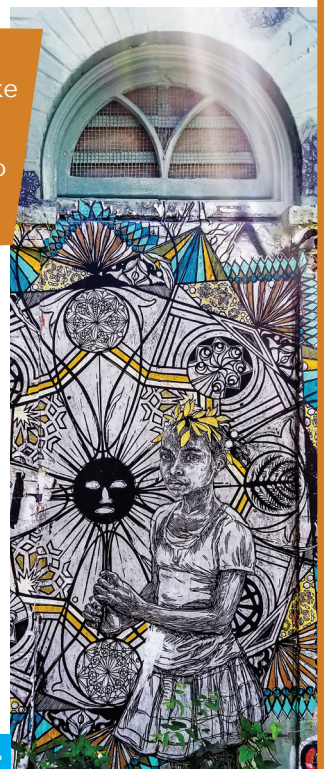


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**WHEAT PASTE** is a glue-like adhesive made from flour or starch and water often used to stick paper to walls.

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.**



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What is something that helps you feel better?



Does making art help change your mood?

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Why or why not?

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**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!

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*.



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!

## 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.

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

Does she look like a goddess to you?

Why or why not?



**THINK!**

**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?**

**WATER** is a  
powerful  
**ELEMENT**—  
we all need  
it every day—  
but too  
much water  
can cause  
destruction.



**When do you  
see it outside?**

As rain or snow, or  
at the beach?

**LET'S**

**MOVE!**

**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?

**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!

**LOOK!**

**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?



**Notice how Swoon made this tree from pieces of fabric.**



LETS

**DRAW!**



PENCILS ARE  
AVAILABLE AT THE  
WELCOME DESK.

**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?

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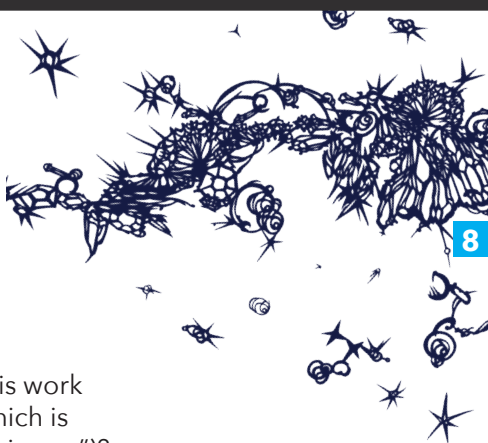
## FINALLY, IT'S TIME TO GO WAY ABOVE-ALL THE WAY INTO SPACE!



**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")?



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

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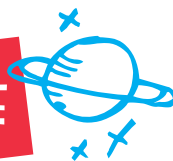
Remember how Swoon suggested questions to think about with each of these sculptures? One of the questions for this work asks what awe feels like in your body.

### 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!



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.

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CAN YOU FIND THE WORKS BELOW?

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

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*Dawn and Gemma and  
Memento Mori*

*Medea*



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*Cicada*

# Swoon: Seven Contemplations

September 26, 2020-January 10, 2021

THANKS  
FOR VISITING  
ALBRIGHT-KNOX  
NORTHLAND!

## 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).
6. Installation view of *Thalassa*, 2011, as part of *Swoon: The Canyon: 1999-2017* at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (September 22, 2017-February 25, 2018). Photograph by Tod Seelie.
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
9. Installation view of *Dawn and Gemma*, 2014, and *Memento Mori*, 2013, at the Brooklyn Museum as part of *Swoon: Submerged Motherlands* (April 11- August 24, 2014). Photograph by Tod Seelie
10. Installation view of *Medea*, 2017, as part of *Swoon: The Canyon: 1999-2017* at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (September 22, 2017-February 25, 2018). Photograph by Tod Seelie.
11. Still from *Cicada*, 2017-19. Stop-motion animation, sound design by Brian Bo; running time: 17 minutes, 17 seconds.



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Written by Lindsay Kranz