



SWOON STUDIO

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Swoon to create immersive, site-specific installation for solo exhibition at Detroit's Library Street Collective gallery, October 8 – November 26, 2016

Additional projects in Detroit during the show's run include the Detroit Institute of Arts' exhibition of Swoon's 20-foot-tall Thalassa (previously on view at the New Orleans Museum of Art) and a mural in the Jefferson-Chalmers district

New York, NY and Detroit, MI – September 26, 2016 — Brooklyn-based mixed-media artist Swoon and Detroit's Library Street Collective gallery are pleased to announce *The Light After*, an exploration of the transition between life and death through the anecdotal lenses of the "near-death experience" and the "empathetic death experience." The installation's concept came from Swoon's experience with what she later identified as the latter; explained the artist:

"When my mother passed away in 2013, I was asleep at the time. I awoke inside a dream to see falling snow. The snow started to open up into blossoms of light as it passed through my body, and it carried with it my mother's voice. I woke up knowing that my mother had passed away, but I felt a little crazy for believing such a thing possible. My sister called shortly after to confirm that my mom had indeed passed. In the years following this intensely strange and profound experience, I discovered through research that it was a rare but extant phenomenon called the 'empathetic death experience.'"

Covering approximately 2,500 square feet of gallery walls and ceilings with hundreds of hand-cut paper and Mylar elements, the intricate and highly immersive *The Light After* will explore the sensory aspect of the transition between life and death by site-specifically responding to the duality of the Downtown Detroit gallery's architecture: the front space of the gallery, the deep, rectangular ground floor of a former vacuum factory built in 1926, will be host to the installation's "tunnel," the vortex that precedes the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel." This rectangular front space feeds into a much narrower hallway, which then emerges into a more open, modern space—a former garage, bright with floor-to-ceiling windows—which Swoon will transform into the installation's "meadow."

Accompanying *The Light After* will be a limited edition print, *Snow Blossoms*, which Swoon identifies as the visual manifestation of her empathetic death experience; an aggregate of the installation's "tunnel" section.

"It's a big topic, but I think that the people who the concept resonates with will appreciate seeing an artist trying to take it on," said Swoon. "And the people who don't know or care to explore these phenomena can hopefully still appreciate the installation's decorative tranquility."

During *The Light After's* run, the gallery will have twelve standalone Swoon works available for private viewing. These pieces include a 3.5'-wide, 6.5'-tall, 1'-deep "installation box" whose concept stemmed from a conversation between Swoon and collector Swizz Beatz; Swoon wanted to create a self-contained multidimensional installation that encapsulated the complexity of her sprawling, site-specific installations—but in a format that could be installed in a collection setting with its original orientation uncompromised by the need for spatial amenability.

Nearby, the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) will exhibit Swoon's large-scale *Thalassa*, previously on view at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Installed site-specifically at DIA to accentuate the native curves, corners, and arches of the Beaux-Arts building's Woodward Avenue entrance, the massive sculpture, featuring a linoleum block print of the sea goddess Thalassa and extensively adorned with paper, fabric, and Mylar cutouts, will suspend from the ceiling.

In addition to *The Light After* and in conjunction with the Detroit Institute of Arts' exhibition of *Thalassa* will be a *Thalassa*-inspired mural in Detroit's Jefferson-Chalmers district, to be completed by Swoon in collaboration with local artists.

Following an artist reception on Saturday, October 8 from 7 – 9 p.m., The Light After will be on view at Library Street Collective (1260 Library Street in Downtown Detroit) through Saturday, November 26. Standard gallery hours are Wednesday – Saturday, noon – 6 p.m. Thalassa will be on view at the Detroit Institute of Arts through March 19, 2017; see dia.org for more information.

Sales inquiries: 313-600-7443 or info@lscgallery.com

ABOUT SWOON

Caledonia Curry, known professionally as Swoon, is a Red Hook, Brooklyn-based mixed media artist whose work explores humanity through portraiture, printmaking, and immersive installation. Swoon graduated from Pratt in 2001 and in 2005 was the subject of a pivotal solo exhibition mounted by now-mentor Jeffrey Deitch. Swoon's work has since adorned the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Tate Modern, LA MOCA, Mass MoCA, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and many more. Her 2014 Brooklyn Museum exhibition, *Submerged Motherlands*, was the Museum's first solo show devoted to a living artist with roots in street art. In Fall 2017, Swoon will create a large scale, site-specific installation in the Zaha Hadid-designed Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center as part of a two-story solo exhibition.

Swoon spends much of her time enveloped in art and social practice by way of community building initiatives in, among others: Haiti, New Orleans, and the Rust Belt town of Braddock, Pennsylvania. In 2015, Swoon founded the 501(c)(3) Heliotrope Foundation to streamline these projects and to expand aid for urgent social crises.

ABOUT LIBRARY STREET COLLECTIVE

Library Street Collective specializes in cutting edge contemporary fine art with a focus on emerging and established artists who have pushed the boundaries of traditional medium and exhibition space. Located in the heart of downtown Detroit, we present regular group and solo exhibitions while contributing to the artistic renaissance of the city's public, private, and heritage spaces. It is our mission to bring both world-renowned artists and exciting new work to a reimagined Detroit, as well as carry this sentiment as we expand our presence through exhibitions, special projects and art fairs nationally and internationally.