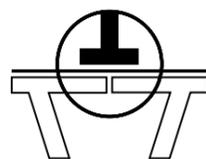


Swoon: Tender



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Curated by J Myszka Lewis and Sona Pastel-Daneshgar for Tandem Press



at **The Vitrine at Saint Kate - The Arts Hotel**

139 East Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Reception: Thursday, August 19, 2021 5-7pm

On View: August 14 - November 14, 2021

For more information or purchase inquiries, please contact curators
J Myszka Lewis or Sona Pastel-Daneshgar.

608.263.3437 | info@tandempress.wisc.edu

tandempress.wisc.edu | Instagram @UWTandemPress | Facebook @TandemPress

Known for her large-scale installations, wheat-pasted block prints, and cut paper assemblages, Caledonia Curry, who exhibits under the name Swoon, consistently creates compelling portraits and earnest expressions of what it means to be human. Treating the beautiful as sublime, she explores feelings of sincerity, empathy, and healing as each relates to people, their communities, and their built environments. *Swoon: Tender* presents a group of expressive portraits that depict individuals in quiet moments of care and connection, reaching out to each other and the viewer.

Several of the individuals depicted in the black-and-white portraits have appeared in other iterations of Swoon's work in recent years. Still, her close cropping of the image heightens the intimacy within the portraits. Titled after the individual's name or the location where she encountered them, it is evident within each portrait that Swoon experienced something special when she met these people and wanted to share that connection with others.

In 2015, Swoon worked with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Restorative Justice program to understand the conditions and context of trauma that lead to and perpetuate lifelong addiction. At the time, she was dealing with the recent death of her mother, who was an addict. "As I tried to put her life in perspective, I wanted to do work that addresses addiction directly by working with a community in recovery," she said. "I have this gift in my life of having a practice that allows me to channel a lot of unbearable stuff. My thought was: Can I share this process with people? Can I share this thing that helps me?" Swoon collaborated with a mental health counselor and a storytelling coach to offer a month of art therapy courses and another month of storytelling workshops to a group of individuals from substance abuse treatment programs.

One day while working with the Mural Arts group, Swoon asked everyone to choose an animal that they felt represented them. A participant named George picked the stingray because he thought that people often perceive them as dangerous, while they are actually mostly docile creatures. His connection with the stingray was rooted in his experience of people often judging him solely based on his appearance. Toward the end of the program, Swoon created portraits of some of the workshop participants, and *George*, the gold-leafed artwork included here, resulted from that work. In this portrait, Swoon surrounds George with a halo of stingrays: their tails emanate as both a display of protection and as a glowing statement of newfound self-worth. The gold background blatantly declares the value inherent in each human life.

Consistent with all of Swoon's portraits, George's likeness represents not only his presence as an individual but also each person we may pass on the street or encounter throughout our day. A sense of sympathy is palpable within Swoon's tender portraits; they beg viewers to pause, then feel appreciation, respect, and care for others.



Swoon, *Girl with Dappled Sunlight*, 2018



Swoon, *George*, 2020.



Swoon, *Alixa and Naima*, 2020



Swoon, *Cairo*, 2020



Swoon, *Cairo*, 2020



Swoon, *Kamayura*, 2020



Swoon, Katherine G, 2020



Swoon, Zahra, 2020

About Swoon:

Caledonia Curry (b. 1977), who exhibits under the name Swoon, is regarded as the first woman to gain wide recognition in the male-dominated world of street art. Her early interventions in the urban landscape took the form of wheat-pasting portraits to walls of cities worldwide, and her public practice has expanded to using art to rebuild communities and humanize today's most pressing social and environmental issues. She founded the Heliotrope Foundation in 2015 to help communities respond to and heal after natural disasters and other urgent social crises. In addition to her social and site-specific projects, her studio practice includes drawing, printmaking, architectural sculpture, and installations. She has recently also begun incorporating animation and video. Curry trained at the Pratt Institute in New York City. Her work has been collected and shown internationally at galleries and museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Brooklyn Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, the Detroit Institute of Art, and the Sao Paulo Museum of Art, among many others. Curry lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

About Tandem Press:

Tandem Press is a self-funded professional printmaking studio and gallery affiliated with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tandem Press hosts internationally renowned artists in its studio space, assisting them in creating original fine art editions. As a gallery, Tandem Press also represents, promotes, and sells the artworks created in the studio both locally through exhibitions and events in Madison, WI and nationally through participation in affiliated exhibitions and several internationally-renowned annual art fairs.

Tandem Press is located at 1743 Commercial Avenue in Madison, Wisconsin.

Artworks in the order they appear on the previous pages:

[Swoon, *Girl with Dappled Sunlight*, 2018](#)

Relief, etching, screen print; Edition of 18; 23 3/4 x 35 3/4 inches

\$3,500 unframed

[Swoon, *George*, 2020](#)

Lithography, screen print, gold leaf, colored silver leaf, metal leaf, hand painting, and collage on wood; Edition of 18; 27 x 23 x 1 1/2 inches

\$8,500 unframed

[Swoon, *Alixa and Naima*, 2020](#)

Intaglio; Edition of 18; 14 1/2 x 18 1/4 inches

\$500 unframed

[Swoon, *Cairo*, 2020](#)

Intaglio; Edition of 18; 15 x 15 inches

\$500 unframed

[Swoon, *Dawn and Gemma*, 2020](#)

Intaglio; Edition of 18; 17 x 17 1/2 inches

\$500 unframed

[Swoon, *Kamayura*, 2020](#)

Intaglio; Edition of 18; 14 7/8 x 13 1/2 inches

\$500 unframed

[Swoon, *Katherine G*, 2020](#)

Intaglio; Edition of 18; 14 1/4 x 16 inches

\$500 unframed

[Swoon, *Zahra*, 2020](#)

Intaglio; Edition of 18; 13 1/2 x 16 1/8 inches

\$500 unframed

Pricing and availability is subject to change at any time. Click the artwork title above to view the artwork page on our website.
Please contact Tandem Press curators J Myszka Lewis or Sona Pastel-Daneshgar to confirm current pricing and availability.