

Swoon Installation at Fine Art Print Fair

It's "a celebration of printmaking," the artist said of the 24-foot work featuring paper cutouts, etching and block printing.



Caledonia Curry (a.k.a Swoon) with her work, commissioned for the Fine Art Print Fair, on view at the Javits Center through Sunday. Credit...Yael Malka for The New York Times

By Lauren Messman

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The [artist known as Swoon](#) has used a variety of mediums to create whimsical worlds and captivating portraits throughout her work, both [for the street and the museum](#). But her latest large-scale installation, which is on view at the Javits Center in Manhattan, centers on one method the artist is well acquainted with: printmaking.

The mixed-media installation was commissioned as part of this year's [Fine Art Print Fair](#), which is presented by the International Fine Print Dealers Association and brings together galleries and publishers from all over the world. Through Sunday, Oct. 27, visitors can view the site-specific installation, which unfolds across a 24-foot-wide wall at the convention center, and nods to both traditional and modern printmaking techniques.

“It’s like a celebration of printmaking in general,” the artist, [born Caledonia Curry](#), said of the piece in a phone interview. “I tried to bring together all the various forms and various ways that I’ve used the print medium over the years,” including paper cutouts, pattern repetition, etching and block printing.

Etchings of the artist’s family and friends adorn the left side of the wall, evoking an Old World feel, while the right side incorporates vivid, large-scale block prints that Swoon says “feel unmistakably modern.” It also includes interactive elements, like jewelry boxes people can open, and a set of doors that sat on [one of the rafts](#) Swoon built and sailed on years ago to the Venice Biennale.

“I’m such a recycler,” Swoon said. “I love to reconfigure pieces into a new installation in some way.”



The 24-foot-wide Swoon installation at the Javits Center. It includes interactive elements, like jewelry boxes people can open.Credit...Yael Malka for The New York Times



Etchings of Swoon’s family and friends adorn the left side of the wall.Credit...Yael Malka for The New York Times

Image



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The commission grew out of a conversation between [Jenny Gibbs](#), the dealers association’s executive director, and [Nadine M. Orenstein](#), the curator in charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s drawings and prints department. The idea was to incorporate a project into the fair that could bridge the gap between traditional print artists and scholars and contemporary creators and collectors.

“She’s sort of a unicorn in that she is that artist who is known and respected by that traditional print collecting group and also street artists,” Ms. Gibbs said of Swoon in a phone interview. Ms. Gibbs said that she and Ms. Orenstein were also drawn to the immersive worlds the artist creates with both prints and found objects.

“She has this amazing ability to kind of transcend the frame,” Ms. Gibbs added.

On Sunday, Swoon will join Ms. Gibbs and Ms. Orenstein at the fair in a conversation about the commission and the evolution of etching, which is the focal point of an exhibition Ms. Orenstein has organized for the Met. That exhibition, [“The Renaissance of Etching,”](#) is on view through Jan. 20.

I.F.P.D.A. Fine Art Print Fair

Through Sunday at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center; ifpdafoundation.org.