

# DANISH MODERN

## Suzanne Swannie Textil

NEW EXHIBITION AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA  
**July 22 to October 11, 2009**

Curated by Ingrid Jenkner

Join us for the opening reception: **Wednesday July 22**

**5:00 pm** – Artist Talk with Suzanne Swannie; **6:30 pm to 8:00 pm** – Public Reception

Generously supported by:



TORONTO – Known for the **exquisite manufacture and design of her functional textiles** and for her charming, intimate tapestries **based on poetry and folklore**, Suzanne Swannie is an artist of significant range. The pieces chosen for this **40-year survey exhibition** showcase her diversity in subject matter, material, art practice and form.

An immigrant to Canada from Denmark, Swannie's practice demonstrates the "Danish Modern" principle of repetition and modular units as a means of generating surfaces and structures. Her sense of colour harmonies and nod to natural landscapes — the legacy of her Scandinavian training — allows her to move ably between industry, craft and the art world.

Some of the pieces in this diverse survey exhibition are figurative and easily legible (ex. *Triptych for Micah*, a large-scale tapestry based on a photograph) others are highly stylized and conceptual (ex. *Repassage* a hugely labour-intensive installation of hundreds of pressed and pinned silk organza squares). Because of Swannie's incredible skill and keen design eye one can see throughout this varied spectrum of work **a unifying thread of bridging worlds** — the domestic and the public, the figurative and the conceptual, the familiar and the extraordinary.

In this exhibition visitors will see some of Swannie's best known and dramatic weavings, *Brud I* and *Brud II*. These works play with intricate variations in colour values and tones to create wonderful arctic-inspired **living landscapes**, again bridging Swannie's "Danish Modern" design sensibilities and her Canadian spirit.

The exhibition is organized by the Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery, Halifax. The accompanying catalogue contains essays by Sheila Stevenson, Halifax, Rachel Gotlieb, Toronto and Ron Shuebrook, Guelph. It is available in the Textile Museum Shop.

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For additional information, interviews or visuals: contact Beth Sharpe, Senior Manager, Communications at 416 599 5321 x2239 or [bethsharpe@textilemuseum.ca](mailto:bethsharpe@textilemuseum.ca)

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### Museum Hours

Open 7 days a week 11 am – 5 pm  
Wednesdays 11 am – 8 pm



**Programs and Events:**

**Artist Talk: Suzanne Swannie**

**Wednesday July 22, 5:00 pm**

Suzanne Swannie is a professional textile artist, designer and teacher. See her weavings, tapestries, and textile installations in Danish Modern.

*Free for TMC Members and Full-time students, Non-members \$12.*

Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited

**Lecture: Suzanne Swannie and Danish Modernism in Canada with Rachel Gotlieb**

**Wednesday September 16, 6:30 pm**

Rachel Gotlieb will discuss the work of Suzanne Swannie in relation to Canada's reception of Danish Modernism beginning in the 1950s. Gotlieb is a leading expert on Canadian design and has published several books and articles on the topic.

*Free for TMC Members and Full-time students, Non-members \$12.*

Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the TMC's front desk. Please arrive early, seating is limited.



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