

THE BMA PRESENTS THE WORK OF CONTEMPORARY ARTIST ANNET COUWENBERG BEGINNING AUGUST 16

Annet Couwenberg: From Digital to Damask shows fiber art through multiple disciplines

BALTIMORE, MD (May 30, 2017)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents *Annet Couwenberg: From Digital to Damask*, an intimate exhibition of 10 extraordinary works by Maryland-based artist Annet Couwenberg. On view August 16, 2017–February 18, 2018, the exhibition shows how art, science, and history can produce fascinating innovations in textiles.



“Annet Couwenberg is a contemporary artist adept at the use of new technology, but deeply appreciative of historical textiles and costume as well as the hand processes used in their creation,” said Anita Jones, Curator of Textiles. “Her art bridges the traditional and the new both aesthetically and technically.”

Couwenberg has had a lifelong interest with the dialogue between the internal structure of an object and its outer façade. In the summer of 2014, the Maryland Institute College of Art professor and internationally exhibited artist received a prestigious Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship. As a part of this program, which paired scientists with visual artists, Couwenberg worked with Dr. Lynne Parenti at the National Museum of Natural History to examine fish fossils, focusing on the interdependence of skeleton and skin in aquatic life forms captured through technological methods including 3-D scan, x-ray, and microscopic photography. Returning to her studio, she applied the patterns and structures learned through this experience to her artwork, which is also visually connected to traditional textiles and costume forms drawn from her Dutch heritage.

In her most recent work, the artist pays homage to the Netherlands’ production of damask during the 17th century, when this fabric was referred to as “white gold.” Inspired by the BMA’s *Portrait of a Young Woman* (1634) by Dutch artist Frans Hals, Couwenberg returned to her homeland to weave four panels at the Textiellab in Tilburg featuring designs generated by her Smithsonian studies and adapted to damask patterns.

Born in the Netherlands, Couwenberg (American, b. 1950) received an MFA in fiber from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan, and an MFA in textiles from Syracuse University, New York. In 2014, she was awarded a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship. The artist has exhibited internationally, including Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea; HOMA Museum, Seoul, Korea; Museum of Arts and Design, New York; Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts; and Decorative Arts Museum, Arkansas. Her work has been widely reviewed in leading publications.

The exhibition is curated by Anita Jones, Curator of Textiles.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art is a major cultural destination recognized for engaging diverse audiences through dynamic exhibitions and innovative educational and community outreach programs. The BMA's internationally renowned collection of 95,000 objects encompasses more than 1,000 works by Henri Matisse anchored by the famed Cone Collection of modern art, as well as one of the nation's finest holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs. The galleries showcase an exceptional collection of art from Africa; important works by established and emerging contemporary artists; outstanding European and American paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts; significant artworks from China; ancient Antioch mosaics; and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000- square-foot museum is also distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of 20th-century sculpture. The BMA is located in Charles Village, three miles north of the Inner Harbor, and is adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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Image: Annet Couwenberg. *Legacy*. 2014. CNC routed polyethelene, laser-cut origami buckram, screwsne. Collection of the artist.