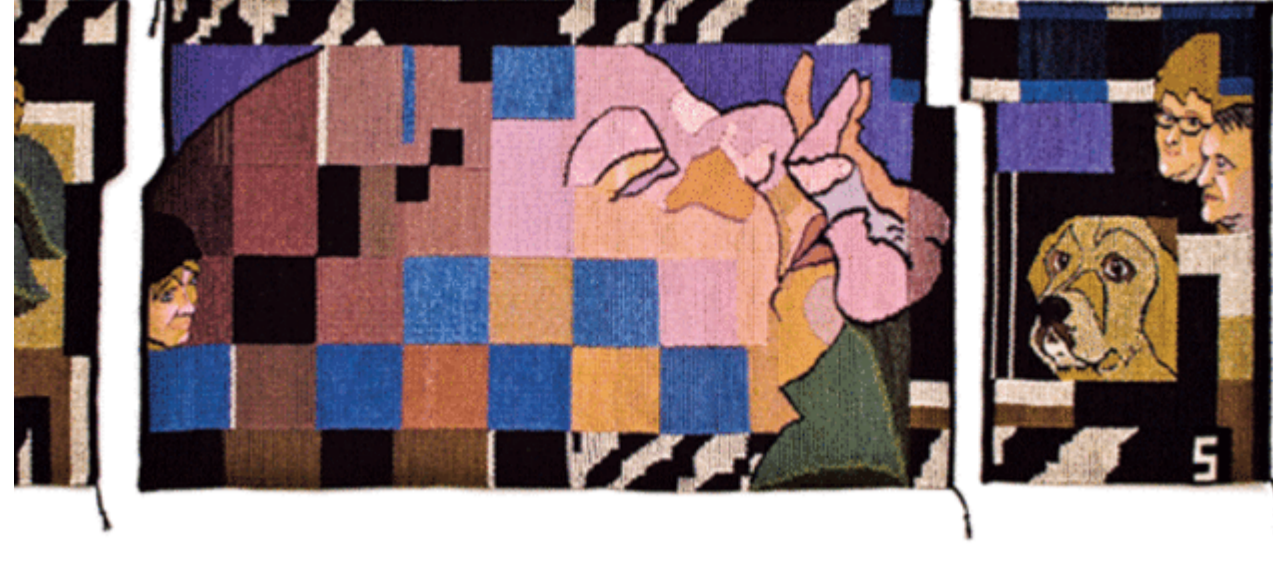


EYE WEEKLY.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2011

- HOME
- CITY
- FOOD
- STYLE
- FILM
- MUSIC
- ARTS
- FUN

GALLERIES



Danish Modern: Suzanne Swannie Textil

Favourite Add to Favorites Recommend: 1

BY DAVID BALZER August 05, 2009 21:08

EDITORIAL RATING:

To Oct 11. \$6-\$12. Mon-Tue, Thu-Sun 11am-5pm; Wed 11am-8pm. Textile Museum of Canada, 55 Centre. 416-599-5321. www.textilemuseum.ca.

The most apparent divide in the Textile Museum's new show of Suzanne Swannie's work is between figuration and abstraction, but the artist encourages others: between minimalism and maximalism, handiwork and manufacture, the personal and the anonymous. One could rhyme off more, but the exhibit is meant to be seen as a whole: and the Textile Museum has given us the title "Danish Modern" with which to understand it all.

That title is a bit deceptive. Swannie is from Denmark but moved to the Maritimes in the '60s – and you will see much of Canada in her work. Renowned CanDesign expert Rachel Gottlieb clarifies, contributing an essay to the exhibition catalogue in which she explains how deeply the Danish (or Scandinavian, if you'd rather) Modern aesthetic defined our country during the time Swannie moved here, pairing her with more straight-ahead industrial designers Thor Hansen and Karen Bulow. Swannie got extensive, reputable training in Denmark to pursue a similar path, but she chose art as her métier.

In a film on display, Swannie explains she is not prolific because she does not want to make junk. Accordingly, one feels obliged to spend time appreciating the intricacy of her craft, though it's the subject matter that largely compels. A personal favourite is her recent "Pictures for Children—Beasts" series, tiny woven masks which, like a lot of her work, might be influenced by Haida or Mi'kmaq motifs. Less successful are her lamentably of-their-time, Gaia-aggrandizing "Cosmic Woman" weavings from the early '80s (for more of this, go upstairs to the Judy Chicago show). The recent Triptych for Micah (pictured) is the unmistakable focal point, daringly pitting a newborn, a dog and fawning parents and grandparents as profound, rather than mawkish.

The conceptual works are pacific, especially Repassage, which is not a tapestry but a series of grids composed of carefully ironed, folded and arranged pieces of cloth. They shimmer with life, as if to symbolize the quiet labour of the others – the tough but passionate ordering required to make a life's work of weaving.

Email us at: LETTERS@EYEWEEEKLY.COM or send your questions to EYEWEEEKLY.COM
 1 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto Ontario, M5E 1E6

User Comments

Comment Using Facebook Connect or EyeID or Comment Anonymously

Newest first

RSS Connect with Facebook | Login/Register

Search Articles Search



Select a City

- [ABBOTSFORD](#)
- [83% Off at U Weigh](#)
- [ALLISTON / INNISFIL](#)
- [Half Off Music Le](#)
- [AURORA / NEWMARKET](#)
- [62% off a Niagara G](#)

Toronto Listings Finder

FILM MUSIC CLUBS ARTS

Film Finder Films | Theatres

All

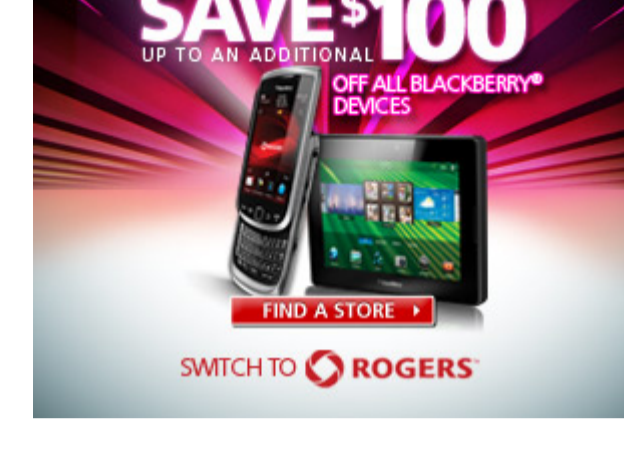
Any Movie Genre

Any Movie Rating

Any Movie Title

Find

Film Chart Grab this finder



Related Stories

CONTACT decision maker
 Don't know what to see at Toronto's biggest photography festival? Check out our handy CONTACT primer.

Refined crude
 In his ROM photo exhibit about the impact of oil, Edward Burtynsky once again creates haunting images of modern landscapes

The projectionist
 UK artist Lindsay Seers plays with film history in her Images Festival installation.

MORE INSIDE

- EYE WEEKLY Guides
- Fringe Festival 2009
- Pride Guide 2009
- Toronto Jazz Festival Guide 2009
- Cool Summer Guide 2009
- Bar and Patio Guide 2009
- Green Living Guide
- Love and Sex Guide
- Cheap Thrills

EYEWEEEKLY.COM Write a Letter to the Editor Masthead and Contacts Privacy Policy Employment Opportunities Advertise With Us Distribution

Star Media Group Sites canadianimmigrant.ca insurancehotline.com swaymag.ca

More Star Pass Sites TheStar.com HomeFinder.ca toronto.com Wheels.ca Ourfaves.com



Copyright 1991 - 2010 EYE WEEKLY Newspapers Limited. All Rights Reserved. Distribution transmission, Republication of any materials is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of EYE WEEKLY. EYE WEEKLY is a division of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited.

