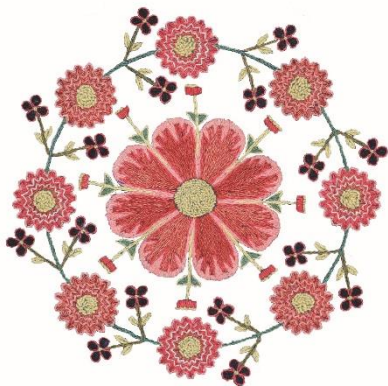


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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

Explore Handmade and Historical Swedish Textiles at ASHM!
Swedish Folk Weavings for Marriage, Carriage, and Home
1750-1840
March 15, 2024 – September 22, 2024



Swedish Folk Weavings *for*
Marriage, Carriage, and Home
1750 to 1840

March 15, 2024 - September 22, 2024

Philadelphia, PA- This spring, step into the rural Swedish countryside of the 18th and 19th centuries when the exhibition *Swedish Folk Weavings for Marriage, Carriage, and Home 1750-1840* opens at the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM) in FDR Park. Composed of rare and artful cushions and bed covers woven and stitched by skilled women for their households, this exhibition will enchant visitors of all ages with whimsical designs created using a variety of methods and featuring real and mythical creatures, geometric patterns, and floral motifs of all kinds.

The majority of the textiles featured in this exhibition were done by women living on farms in southern Sweden where skill in weaving and textile production was considered an important resource to bring to a household. While the

decline of this textile tradition happened as farming life changed, the cushions and pillows became “Sunday Culture,” appearing only Sundays and special occasions rather than every day. This undoubtedly preserved their bright colors and delicate structures so that we can appreciate them today. ASHM is excited to share a piece of the Swedish countryside and rural lifestyle with visitors in the United States.

Swedish Folk Weavings for Marriage, Carriage, and Home 1750-1840 will be on view at ASHM from March 15, 2024 through September 22, 2024. Admission is included with ASHM general tickets. ASHM is open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and weekends 12:00 - 4:00 pm.

Swedish Folk Weavings for Marriage, Carriage, and Home was developed in collaboration with Wendel and Diane Swan whose collection is primarily featured in the exhibition.

We are grateful for support from the ASHM Auxiliary, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, Midsommarklubben, Red Moose Charitable Trust, SWEA Philadelphia, and an anonymous foundation. Funding for the American Swedish Historical Museum is supported by grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Exhibition Events:

***Swedish Folk Weavings for Marriage, Carriage, and Home 1750-1840* Preview Night** Thursday, March 14th

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Join us for a sneak preview of *Swedish Folk Weavings for Marriage, Carriage, and Home!* This exhibition features rare and artful cushions and bed covers woven by women for their dowries and households. Dating between 1750 and 1840, these textiles reflect the influence of trade and depict everything from exotic birds to Roman mosaics. The exhibition preview is free to the public with light refreshments served. RSVP online.

<https://www.americanswedish.org/events/exhibition-preview-swedish-folk-weavings-marriage-carriage-and-home-1750-1840>

Free Virtual Lecture: Early Swedish Folk Weavings at the American Swedish Historical Museum by Wendel Swan

Wednesday, May 1st

1:00 pm

Wendel Swan, who has loaned more than 50 textiles for this unprecedented exhibition, will discuss the historical background of Scandinavian weavings since the Viking era and, with profuse illustrations, the enormous diversity of Swedish textiles in design elements, colors, and weaving techniques that are astonishing for an area as small as Scania.

The exhibition and webinar provide an opportunity to learn about the marvelous group of Swedish textiles featured in the exhibition *Swedish Folk Weavings for Marriage, Carriage, and Home 1750 to 1840*. Online registration required.

Craft Night Out: Flower Arranging

Thursday, May 16th

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Get ready for a fun night out! Kristen Pickell of Pickells and Posies will lead a guided class on how to make your floral arrangements pop! The event includes a guided tour of our *Swedish Folk Weavings* exhibition for floral inspiration, a vase and all materials, and a Scandinavian dessert charcuterie board! Check our events website for more information and to register.

Free Craft Fair & Textile Family Day

Sunday, July 14th

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Join us for a free craft fair and family day at the American Swedish Historical Museum! Inspired by the textiles of the new *Swedish Folk Weavings* exhibition, vendors will

demonstrate and sell their handcrafts of all kinds. Bring your family and try out different textile crafts like cross-stitch and weaving through fun activities in our galleries.

Embroidery Workshop

Sunday, July 21st

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Have you ever admired the embroideries in museum collections and thought “No way I could ever do that, but I wish I could”? Have you been overwhelmed by fabric, needle, thread, and stitch choices? Look no further – our embroidery workshop will teach you everything you need to know to start embroidering yourself. In this workshop you will create your own embroidery project inspired by the *Swedish Folk Weavings* exhibition and ASHM collections, guided by ASHM embroidery expert Olivia Henley. Check our events website for more information and to register.

Images:



Embroidered *agedyna* (bench cushion), undated, with polychrome segmented medallions, hearts, crosses, and floral motifs. Collection of Wendel and Diane Swan.



Röjukan jynne (dove-tail tapestry chair cushion), undated, signed IPD, with yellow ground and five palmettes. Collection of Wendel and Diane Swan.



Interlocked Tapestry *agedyna* (bench cushion), undated, with reindeer in octagons, flanked by birds with floral forms. Collection of Wendel and Diane Swan.



Flamskväv agedyna (Flemish weave cushion), dated 1822, with a red ground, undulating flowers and a central multicolor spiral star. Collection of Wendel and Diane Swan.

About ASHM:

Visit the American Swedish Historical Museum to learn the forgotten history of Swedes in Philadelphia. Built in 1926 during the Sesquicentennial, the Museum has a unique interior divided into a dozen galleries designed to highlight Scandinavian influences in America. The galleries explore a range of topics including the New Sweden Colony, women's history, scientific innovations, and Swedish craft arts. ASHM hosts a variety of programs from Swedish holiday celebrations to history lectures to family programs.

The mission of the ASHM is to welcome all people to explore cultural identity through the story of Scandinavians. The Museum offers a vibrant community dedicated to preserving and interpreting culture through celebrations and exhibitions, while providing opportunities to learn, experience, and grow. No matter your age or interests, ASHM has something for you! Visit our website www.americanswedish.org to learn more.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's NRG/Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance or SEPTA's Route 17 (to Pattison) can bring you right to the Museum.