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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

New on View for the Fall
From the Heart, Made By Hand: Treasures from the Women of Sweden
Fiber Installations by Ted Hallman, PhD
On view through March 10, 2019



Philadelphia, PA – Sweden has long been a place at the forefront of handcrafts, with weaving and textiles being an especially important part of Scandinavian craft-making. The ASHM is thrilled to bring two exhibits that explore the story textiles tell in both the past and the present with ***From the Heart, Made By Hand: Treasures from the Women of Sweden***, opening **September 16th** and ***Fiber Installations by Ted Hallman, PhD***, opening **October 20th**.

What makes the perfect gift? For many people, it is something that is handmade. In celebration of thoughtful, handmade gifts, the ASHM is featuring one of its most cherished gifts. This exhibition includes selections of the 75 handmade textiles presented to the American Swedish Historical Museum in 1938

from every province of mainland Sweden.

Monsters and animals weave their way around these objects and delight the eye. Both explosions of color and tame geometric patterns inspire curiosity. The variety within this collection means that each object reflects elements from the Swedish provinces to Americans and Swedish Americans.

The gift speaks of more than Swedish regionalism and craft, though. In the eyes of the remarkable figure who organized the collection, these handmade gifts also represent female power. Dr. Hanna Rydh was a politician, women's rights reformer, and Sweden's first female archaeologist who blended academia and activism within this gift. To Rydh, handicraft—within the traditional women's sphere—was a symbol of female accomplishment and signified their equality with men both in Sweden and America.

In ***Fiber Installations***, opening on **October 20th**, sculptor Ted Hallman examines the relationship between traditional and modern craft through three contemporary installations on ASHM's first floor.

Explore how Hallman engages his craft by using traditional Swedish techniques. For example, Hallman's vibrant *rya* rugs reflect the intense spirit of traditional folk paintings. And sculptural pieces such as his massive fabric trees and clouds remind us of fiber's three-dimensional nature. Walk through these galleries to meditate on Hallman's spirited textiles and the eternal dialogue between the traditional and modern.

The Montgomery County-based artist comes from colonial Swedish and Finnish heritage. A student of painting and weaving from the legendary Cranbrook Academy of Art and strongly influenced by Carl Milles, Hallman studied with influential Swedish-Finn designers Marianne Strengell and Maija Grotell.



Explore all that these textiles communicate by visiting ***From the Heart, Made by Hand: Treasures from the Women of Sweden and Fiber Installations by Ted Hallman, PhD*** on view between September 16th, 2018 and March 10th, 2019!

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The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia, five blocks west of the Sports Complex. The Museum is easily accessible from Route 95 or 76 and has free parking. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street subway Pattison Ave/NRG station, or SEPTA's Route 17 bus is within walking distance of the Museum.

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