When I joined the Tweed and Duluth’s communities on January 13th, I was looking forward to meeting many of you. Then the global pandemic hit and changed our lives, redefining social behaviors and much of what we knew up until then. Along with UMD, the Tweed closed and went virtual. My team and I are passionate about our work and dedicated to our museum so we got to work connecting with regional, national, and international museums to compare notes, brainstorm, and find answers to the question: How can we best play a productive, integrative role in the decades to come?

Needless to say, the traditional museum model was already undergoing great change before covid-19. Rather than an island, museums across the world were reaching out and empowering multiple communities, decolonizing, implementing change by questioning hierarchies, and diversifying staff and advisory boards, and ensuring programming, collecting, and acquisitions are driven by these principles. The need for change in the museum world has long been discussed and change will come. Today’s world and the post-covid-19 world we all so anxiously await has in many ways made this change more urgent than ever.

At the Tweed, these past months have been a time to reflect on the deeper implications of the Tweed’s impact on today’s and on future generations. During this time, we also have continued to work remotely, addressing implementing new creative venues and projects that will engage our audiences both virtually and, whenever possible, in person. To this end, we have reviewed all of the Tweed’s spaces, rethought visitor flow through the galleries, and revisited programming with an eye to new directions. I trust that you will be impressed by the fantastic fall 2020 programming that we have brought together.

Museums such as the Tweed exist to share. So, let me share just some of the work we accomplished these past few months. Just a few days before needing to work remotely, we initiated some long overdue renovations. As a first step, with the help of the Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation, Facilities Management, many UMD colleagues and outside contractors, we removed all of the outdated carpet. Based on communities’ input, later this year and into summer 2021, we will create new spaces that will be central to the Tweed. The 1st floor will feature changing exhibitions, and we are installing a multi-purpose Education and Communities Space for museum-based teacher training, workshops for K-12, adults, a teen space, and more. We will also have a new student lounge on the 1st floor, with the gift store nearby and a wall featuring temporary contemporary art installations. Selected holdings from the collection will be on view on the 2nd floor, where we are also creating a study room for object-based teaching/learning. Student-curated exhibitions, in collaboration with faculty from all disciplines, will also be installed on the 2nd floor.

Let me conclude by thanking the College of the Liberal Arts, advisory board members, faculty, students, and community members for their support and input. None of what we do would be possible without you. I also wish to give special thanks to participating artists, Professors David Beard and Devalenea Dax for spearheading the NEH project, to guest-curator Anne Dugan, and to my team for their consistently excellent ideas and work. My deepest thanks go to you, our loyal members, for your contributions without which we could not realize any of the above, especially in present times. I am very thankful for your ongoing support and look forward to welcoming you back in person and/or virtually. Until then, be well, be safe, and feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Yours,

Anja Chávez, PhD
Director, Tweed Museum of Art
University of Minnesota Duluth

Becoming the new Tweed advisory board chair during this pandemic has been made so much easier with the addition of Dr. Anja Chávez. Her arrival in January has put in place outstanding leadership during the most challenging of circumstances. Unfortunately, our board has not yet had the opportunity to introduce her to all of you, but I hope that will change soon. We are so fortunate to have her expertise helping the Tweed manage during these complex times. I’m excited to have you meet her. The Tweed advisory board welcomed five new members this spring. Joining us are Abdulla Al, Anne Dugan, Karl Everett, Christian Moreno Cava, and Holly Sampson. Their knowledge of the communities we serve and many skills will be a great asset as the Tweed moves forward.

As we implement new ways of interacting with each other and explore how to survive and thrive in the pandemic, it’s been, for me, a time to reflect on the value of the Tweed to the community. I’m an outspoken supporter of the Tweed and an unabashed believer in the importance of art museums. Since the day I arrived in Duluth over 30 years ago, I have considered the Tweed to be a most amazing place. Just as I value Lake Superior, the Boundary Waters, outstanding biking, and hiking, I value experiencing world class art within a few blocks of my home. I don’t need to travel to a larger urban center, but right here in my hometown I can see remarkable international and regional art, interact with artists, and be immersed in the ideas, different beliefs, and values they put forth. I can question, reflect, and be inspired by art that speaks to the soul and the intellect.

The Tweed is part of what makes Duluth unique and is an asset to protect and grow. What began in 1950 with a donation of 350 pieces of art from Alice Tweed Tuohy, has grown into a major educational and cultural resource with a collection of over 10,000 objects of art. While we struggle with social distancing and trying to figure out what the future will look like, I hope our community will continue to value and support the Tweed. It’s been inspiring our community for seventy years. It’s on us to make sure it is here for the future.

Patricia Burns
President, Tweed Museum of Art Advisory Board

I am beyond thrilled to work with the incredible staff and supporters of the Tweed Museum of Art as it becomes a part of the new College of Liberal Arts. For those of you I haven’t yet had the pleasure of meeting, allow me to introduce myself. I took the reins as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts in July 2019 in a homesteering of sorts. I spent nearly nine years teaching political science at UMD before going to the other side of the world to teach for more than three years in Australia. It was an amazing place to live and work, but who could turn down the opportunity to return to the shores of Lake Superior and the great students, staff, faculty, and supporters of UMD?

These past few months have been quite the education—not just learning about the stellar collection we have at the Tweed and how we can connect the Tweed to more of our academic and community partners, but also figuring out how this cultural institution navigates a global pandemic that prevents people from coming to enjoy the space. Fortunately, the Tweed team is top-notch and working diligently to get ready for the time when we can welcome folks back, and that includes some much needed updating to the physical space to make it more inviting and contemporary.

If you look at a map of UMD, you’ll notice that the Tweed is right at the heart of campus. That’s not just true geographically, but also in terms of its educational mission and community outreach. Thanks for all of your support of the Tweed over the years, and I can’t wait until we can all spend some time in that lovely space again.

With regards,

Jeremy Youde, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
Local Artists Respond to a Global Pandemic

Anne Dugan, Guest Curator

Through a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) CARES: Cultural Organizations grant, the Tweed Museum of Art will host a new exhibition as part of a larger project entitled Stories of Wisdom from Bodies in Separation (SWaBS): Archiving the Coronavirus Pandemic through the Lens of Humanities, organized by UMD Professors David Beard and Devaleena Das. Anne Dugan, guest curator, developed this exhibition that will be held at the Tweed Museum of Art from August 31, 2020 to November 26, 2020 in the Court Gallery.

In March of 2020, the realities of the global coronavirus pandemic began to come into view in northern Minnesota. On March 6th, the state announced its first case of covid-19 and by March 27th, the Governor had issued a shelter-in-place order. With school, work, entertainment, childcare, and almost all activities outside the home halted, community members turned toward the arts. Social media exploded with people recreating their favorite paintings, streaming television and movie sites saw a massive jump in content consumption, and the Facebook page ‘Virtual Duluth’ marked thousands of visits daily to programs including live videos of glass blowing, acrobatics, and performances from artists’ homes.

This exhibition showcases the responses of a handful of area artists to the new realities of creating art in the age of a global pandemic. For many, this time has been spent trying to balance home life, work, and the uncertainty of both while also trying to leverage their craft to create connections in the face of physical distancing.

At the same time that artists are dealing with the pandemic on an intensely personal level, they are also sharing their gifts to promote public health and social justice through public service campaigns, public art, and activism.

The vitality of the local visual arts in this community is an important line of defense against the stress and isolation of this time. Ivy Vainio, Moira Villiard, Sarah Brokke, and Karen Savage Blue share their work while a documentary by local filmmaker Mike Scholtz explores the virtual experiments undertaken by some of these artists as well as Joe Klander and Brian Barber. The acute awareness of the importance of art as a form of respite, recovery, activism, and activity has been pushed to the forefront during our shared public health crisis. The Tweed is fortunate to be able to celebrate these important voices.

ARTh 2390: U.S. Art and Visual Culture in the 20th Century

The extended closures and capacity restrictions of museums and academic institutions have only bolstered the growing interest in digital content, related to the arts. In the spirit of creating accessible cultural content in this digital age, students in “ARTh 2390: U.S. Art and Visual Culture in the 20th Century” will be creating videos centered on a work of art on display at the Tweed Museum of Art.

This project is an opportunity to thoroughly examine one work of art, and to think through some of the larger themes we will discuss throughout this class. At a time when it is hard to feel connected, this collaborative project gives students the opportunity to participate in meaningful and engaging conversations about a specific work of art they have examined using a variety of art historical tools. In addition, access to the work of art at the center of each video allows students to better engage the viewer by bringing the viewer to the art, as the videos will be filmed primarily in Tweed Museum. Currently, students have been placed into groups based on their preferred focus image, and groups of four will visit the museum once it is open to the public.

Erika Pazian
Assistant Professor, Art History Department of Art & Design
ADAM SWANSON MURAL PROJECT

Camille Doran
Registrar, Tweed Museum of Art

Tweed Museum is teaming with artist Adam Swanson on a mural project intended to increase art engagement with UMD students. Students will be involved in the design of the four-panel mural and will have the opportunity to participate in the painting of the mural. The project will take place in the newly-designated contemporary artist section of Tweed’s main gallery. A presentation by Swanson on his work, as well as class visits, will be included.

Adam Swanson is a painter and muralist fascinated by the way science fiction posits a future for humanity that is changed by major environmental changes and technological innovations. His invented landscapes ask viewers to consider unfamiliar places, such as the lines between true and false, fiction and documentation, natural growth and urban development. He paints wild animals and scientific equipment to create poignant and sometimes humorous tensions between humans and the natural world. Swanson spent years working in Antarctica with the National Science Foundation where he developed his knowledge of important climate related experiments. He’s a member of the Twin Ports Art Science Collaborative. His work has been influenced by researchers from Lake Superior and the SPRUCE climate change project in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Swanson’s been commissioned to paint a number of public murals in Minnesota that engage neighborhoods and visitors. His work on a series of jury-selected murals for the Ramsey County Courthouse was an important opportunity for Swanson to share his research on Minnesota’s history in order to re-interpret the John Norton murals (1931–32) and connect with the state’s environmental activist communities.

Swanson lives and paints full-time in the woods of northern Minnesota. He is married and a father of two. As a Minnesotan, many of Adam’s mural paintings are sited in the state.
Creating Apart: Local Artists Respond to a Global Pandemic  | Court Gallery

Through a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) CARES: Cultural Organizations grant, the Tweed Museum of Art will host a new exhibition as part of a larger project entitled Stories of Wisdom from Bodies in Separation (SWaBS): Archiving the Coronavirus Pandemic through the Lens of Humanities, organized by UMD Professors David Beard and Devaleena Das. This exhibition, guest curated by Anne Dugan, showcases the responses of featured artists Ivy Vainio, Moira Villiard, Sarah Brokke, and Karen Savage Blue. A documentary by local filmmaker Mike Scholtz explores the virtual experiments undertaken by some of these artists as well as Joe Klander and Brian Barber.

Adam Swanson Mural Project  | Main Gallery

Tweed Museum is teaming with artist Adam Swanson on a mural project intended to increase art engagement with UMD students. Students will be involved in the design of the four-panel mural and will have the opportunity to participate in the painting of the mural. The project will take place in the newly-designated contemporary artist section of Tweed’s main gallery. A presentation by Swanson on his work, as well as class visits, will be included.

Senior Student Exhibitions  | Student Exhibition Gallery

Due to the current circumstances tied to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Art and Design, in the College of Liberal Arts at UMD, is offering a calendar of hybrid senior student exhibitions, featuring physical exhibitions at the Tweed Museum of Art and virtual shows. For details, visit https://sfa.d.umn.edu

Glassworks from the Collection of Don and Carol Wilken  | Features Niche

In 2002, the Tweed Museum of Art presented the exhibition Contemporary Studio Glass from the Collection of Don and Carol Wilken. The exhibition introduced 35 glassworks created by prominent national and international glass artists, some of which they donated to complement the Tweed’s modest collection of glassworks acquired in previous years. The Wilkens donated a total of 28 works. This display features some of the best from their collection.

A Life Well-Painted: The Art of Carl Gawboy  | Special Exhibition Gallery

This retrospective of Bois Forte Anishinaabe and Finnish artist Carl Gawboy will present works of art that span over 50 years. The exhibition features many watercolors (Gawboy’s preferred medium), but also acrylic paintings and relief sculptures. His meticulously painted artworks depict Anishinaabe cultural activities, legends, fond memories of rural farm life, and his family and friends. Carl Gawboy, who graduated from UMD in 1965, has significantly influenced the Twin Ports community, not only as a talented and treasured artist, but also as a teacher, storyteller, family man, and friend.

The Last Campaign of Robert F. Kennedy: Photodocumentary by Rachel Scott  | Balcony Gallery

On March 18, 1968, thousands of people flocked to Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, to hear Landon Lecture Series speaker Senator Robert F. Kennedy’s speech entitled “Conflict at Vietnam and at Home.” Two days prior, he had announced his run for president of the United States. One of the people who came to the lecture. Rachel Scott, was a college student as well as a photographer and reporter for The Kansas State Collegian. She later took photographs in Nebraska before the state primary in May. After the school year ended, she traveled on her own to document Kennedy’s campaign in California. This exhibition features never-before-published-together photographs Scott took of those events and the 25-hour vigil after Kennedy had been shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. On June 6, 1968, Robert F. Kennedy was pronounced dead at the age of 42. This exhibition tells Scott’s story of Kennedy’s campaign, which ended with his death.

Gashikibidaaganag: A Selection of Bandolier Bags  | Nelson Display Case

Gashikibidaaganag, or bandolier bags, are ornately beaded bags originating from Native artists around the Great Lakes region in the mid-19th century, which were worn primarily by men. Today, beadwork artists continue to make gashikibidaaganag for all people to wear at powwows and other special events. This display highlights bandolier bags from the Tweed collection and the Duluth Children’s Museum.
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Thank you for your support.
We’re doing our part to keep everyone safe and slow the spread of COVID-19 while still providing great art experiences. Here’s what you can expect from your Tweed visit:

—Masks will be mandatory. Everyone is required to wear a cloth face mask while in the museum. If you don’t have one, we will provide you with one.

—Clean hands. Everyone must either sanitize or wash their hands upon entering and leaving the Tweed. Sanitizing stations are by the entrance and exit. The bathrooms are on the lower level. Please remember to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.

—Maintain social distancing. Everyone must maintain six feet physical distance. If you are in a group of four or less, you may stay together in that group but maintain distance from others.

The exhibitions are designed to assist with maintaining physical distance. There will also be signage to help you navigate your visit. Tweed staff are available to answer your questions or provide help as needed. We are very happy to reopen our doors and share wonderful art experiences with everyone. We believe art enriches our lives and helps us thrive. By following these safety measures, we hope everyone will stay safe to enjoy art and life.

Stay well and safe.

The Tweed Museum of Art is one of the units in the College of Liberal Arts, UMD. The University of Minnesota Duluth is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

To request disability accommodations, please contact the Tweed Museum of Art, cstrom@d.umn.edu, 218.726.7823 two weeks in advance. Interpreters can be requested at: http://d.umn.edu/disability-resources

Tweed Museum plans to reopen in spring 2021 and will keep the current exhibitions up through then so that all audiences can experience our programming. We hope to see you then. Be well.

Cover Image: Sarah M. Brokke (American, b. 1979) “Her Wild Life is Coming Back (II)” 2020 Oil on canvas, 20” h x 30” w Collection of the Artist © Sarah Brokke 2020

The exhibition “Creating Apart: Local Artists Respond to a Global Pandemic” at the Tweed Art Museum is part of the project Stories of Wisdom from Bodies in Separation (SWaBS): Archiving the Coronavirus Pandemic Through the Lens of Humanities at UMD which has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sponsorship

The Tweed Museum is supported by member contributions and by funds from the Minnesota States Arts Board, the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Funds through the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment, and the Minnesota State Legislature.