

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUSQUEHANNA ART MUSEUM

AT THE MARTY AND TOM PHILIPS FAMILY ART CENTER

COCOON Steelton: The Migrations of Many, by Kate Browne, opens February 10, 2024

Harrisburg, PA - Susquehanna Art Museum's upcoming exhibition, *COCOON Steelton: The Migrations of Many*, is the seventh and most recent iteration of artist Kate Browne's international performance and installation series focused on forced and voluntary migration. The exhibition comprises recorded interviews with Steelton steelworkers and residents, portraits taken by Eric Etheridge, and the Cocoon sculpture, which was part of a performance installation in Steelton in 2023.

As viewers walk through the sculpture they will hear stories about Steelton, the steel mill, and family histories—a soundtrack derived from Browne's interviews, which explore the reality of living in a small town with a single-industry economy where job opportunities have declined considerably since the 1950s. Today the situation is far from over: As the steel plant changes hands again, it is important to document the existence of Steelton and the mill through the stories told by generations of local families and union members and to examine how these narratives help them make decisions about the future now.



The Cocoon Sculpture ©. Eric Etheridge.

Kate Browne has been working since 2008 on the international COCOON series, which examines sites of forced and voluntary migrations and the epidemics that follow. She has created Cocoons—works incorporating installations and performances—in Paris; Mexico City; Greenwood and Jackson, Mississippi; the Bronx; Miskolc, Hungary; and, most recently, Steelton, Pennsylvania. Browne grew up in rural Pennsylvania, graduated from Hampshire College, and now lives in New York City. Eric Etheridge has photographed Kate Browne's COCOON projects since 2008. He is also author and photographer of *Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders*.

Thanks to the United Steel Workers Local 1688, for partnering with Kate Browne on the project since 2019.

Museum visitors are invited to attend Kate Browne's artist talk on March 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

For more information about the exhibition and events: www.SusquehannaArtMuseum.org/calendar/cocoon/
For more information about Cocoon by Kate Browne: www.bykatebrowne.com/

Cocoon Steelton, PA: The Migrations of Many will be on view in the Susquehanna Art Museum's Beverlee and Bill Lehr Gallery from February 10–May 19, 2024. The exhibition is supported locally by Presenting Sponsor: UPMC [Life Changing Medicine] and Season Sponsor: The Anne M. and Phillip H. Glatfelter III Foundation.

Susquehanna Art Museum is located at 1401 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Hours: Wednesday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm, Thursday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 pm.

Free parking is available to visitors in the lot behind the Museum at Calder and James Streets.

www.SusquehannaArtMuseum.org (717) 233-8668

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