

PATTI SMITH

THE CORAL SEA

“From a place apart, Morpheus, god of dreams, awakes. Detached from the benevolent folds of the muse he presses against the blue and burns into form. Flying high, with neither love nor remorse, he regards his charge—a young man asleep within the cloth of a voyage, which is turning, ever so slowly, even as the widening skirt of an ecstatic.”

-Prologue, The Coral Sea

Patti Smith wrote the collection of poems titled *The Coral Sea* in the wake of the passing of her friend, the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. The text presents a metaphoric and dream-like meditation on life, death and transition. This exhibition, by the same title, explores universally familiar themes such as loss, remembrance and transcendence through a melding of language and image.

***The Coral Sea* is staged in four sections—affliction, cremation, remembrance, and transformation.**

Patti Smith (b. 1946) began as a visual artist and has been making drawings and taking photographs since the late 1960s. In addition to being an artist, she is a singer, songwriter, and author.

Patti Smith: The Coral Sea is curated by Justine Ludwig and organized by the Contemporary Arts Center.

A special thanks to:

Murray Sinclair and Ross, Sinclair & Associates, LLC.; Sue and Bill Friedlander; James A. Miller; Mapplethorpe Foundation; Mary Ida and Marshal Compton; Paul and Maureen Lechleiter; Kevin and Elizabeth Ott; Kate and Bill Baumann; Turnbull-Wahlert Construction, Inc.; Anonymous; PNC Bank; Peter Quinnan and Mark Boire; W. Jim and Emily Silver Fund at GCF; Linda Greenberg; ArtsWave Corporate Partner: Frisch’s Restaurants