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Katonah unveils quintet of shows

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The journey of the mind is the theme that links a quintet of brilliant new exhibits at the Katonah Museum of Art.

There are boxes by Nyack native Joseph Cornell, filled with the stuff of dreams and memories; provocative suitcase works by 20th-century and contemporary artists; whimsical illustrations from "The Train of States," a children's book by Irvington resident Peter Sís, and kinetic steel sculptures by Michael Steiner.

But the show that will sweep you away is "Diane Tuft: Internal Reflection," a mixed-media installation that reinforces the notion that the most fulfilling voyage is the inward one.

Picture a dark room with a cluster of icy stalactites hanging from the ceiling and stalagmites rising from the mirrored floor. Or perhaps you're in a forest in winter with crystal branches reflecting off a glassy pond and casting shadows in the deep woods.

Still, you're warmed by the breathtaking theatricality of it all as Patrick Grant's music — as spare as haiku — wafts through the space, enhancing a sense of beauty and serenity.

"Internal Reflection" allows you to exhale.

Tuft's installation is the perfect complement to "Andromeda Hotel: The Art of Joseph Cornell" (through Sept. 17). Like Tuft, Cornell (1903-72) sought to draw viewers into a world of his own imagining. It's just a much smaller world.