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THE BUFFALO NEWS

## Sculptures from Albright-Knox adorn Graycliff estate

Mark Sommer Jul 29, 2022 Updated Jul 31, 2022



Sarah Braman's "Stay" is on loan at Graycliff through October 2023.

**T**he picturesque summer manor Frank Lloyd Wright designed on a cliff in Derby is the setting for two contemporary outdoor sculptures and several more on both floors of the recently restored 1926 Graycliff estate.

The outdoor sculptures provided by Albright-Knox Art Gallery for the exhibition "Sarah Braman: Finding Room" will be on the grounds until October 2023, with the indoor pieces on view until March 2023.

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The Graycliff cliffside estate was designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright and opened in 1926.

"This exhibition is unlike anything Graycliff has ever hosted," said Anna Kaplan, Graycliff Conservancy's executive director. "It is a real opportunity to invigorate our now restored historic grounds and interiors with brilliant contemporary art that is sure to challenge perspectives, and allow us to experience our historic site in an entirely new way."

The outdoor sculptures, one called "Sit" and the other "Stay," are made of precast concrete, steel and colored geometric glass. The smaller, indoor pieces use wood, concrete, colored glass and pieces of scrapyards vehicles and furniture.

Braman purposely chose materials Wright worked with in forming his organic style of architecture to explore the interaction between natural and man-made materials, as well as the interchange between light and translucent glass.



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"The interior works are very similar materials to what Wright used to build the house," said Zach Boehler, the public art project coordinator at the Albright-Knox who curated the exhibit along with Andrea Alvarez, an assistant curator. "They ask for viewers to move around them and consider them within the space they're set in."



A door finds a new use in Sarah Braman's indoor sculpture.

"Her outdoor works are large enough to actually invite you inside of them and experience the space they create," Boehler said. "I think Sarah hopes that being enveloped in that space and in the color that the glass creates inside, and the shadow, offers a moment of contemplation and even momentary meditative peace."

Alvarez said visitors should enjoy the way the artwork interacts with the house.

"In this dynamic space, Braman's colorful artworks will come to life and encourage visitors to see them – and the house – in a new light," she said.

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Sarah Braman's use of colored glass and wood is on display at the Graycliff estate in Derby.

Braman, who was born in Tonawanda and lives in Amherst, Mass., said she was grateful for the opportunity to exhibit her sculptures at Graycliff, where her indoor and outdoor pieces can be shown at the same time.

"As artists, we work mostly alone," Braman said. "We have a vision, but we don't always have a sense of how that vision fits into the larger landscape physically, culturally, spiritually and psychically.

"I'm not sure if any of you can fully understand the impact that this kind of opportunity and support has on an artist, especially a sculptor," she said. "I'm so grateful that Andrea and Zach called these works here to be in this extraordinary site."



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Guided art tours will be available on Fridays and Saturdays and are free the first Saturday of each month. To make reservations or for more information, go to [experiencegraycliff.org](http://experiencegraycliff.org).

County Executive Mark Poloncarz praised the expansive use of public art in recent years spearheaded by the Albright-Knox, and Graycliff's transformation.

The years-long project to restore Graycliff to its original splendor was completed in 2019. Due to delays because of Covid-19, a Wright-designed stone bench and the lakefront lawn were recently restored. A period-appropriate and safer fencing was added, and trees on the cliff's edge that blocked the view of Lake Erie, and degraded stairs that once led to the rocks below were removed.

"Graycliff is truly one of the wonders when we talk about the arts and cultural scene in our community," Poloncarz said. "When you see it today compared to what it looked like just 10 years ago, it is tremendously different and so much better."

Graycliff Conservancy is currently seeking to raise \$6 million for a new visitor center. They have compiled \$730,000 to date, with a "ton of irons in the fire," Kaplan said.

Plans call for a main lobby and ticketing area, exhibit space, an indoor-outdoor cafe doubling as an event space, an administration area that includes a docent lounge and restrooms. The new visitor center would incorporate the current site and feature an extended wood-clad green roof feature.

The cliffside attraction will be hosting the Market at Graycliff beginning next week. There will be vendors, music and food trucks on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. through Sept. 15.



"Sarah Braman: Finding Room" is on exhibit at Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff manor in Derby.  
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