

# ArtisticLandscape

ART REVIEW

## SculptureNow 2023 fills the fields, woods and gardens of The Mount with powerfully evocative sculptures

By JENNIFER HUBERDEAU  
The Berkshire Eagle

**LENEX** — Standing in a field, a silver deer looks back at a small bird perched on its back. Its antlers rise high into the air, twisting into branches covered in delicate silver leaves.

For a moment, especially if you're a fan of "Harry Potter," one can imagine a patronus charm has been cast and this beast is an animal guardian called into action. And this stainless steel sculpture, *I Have Been Dreaming to Be a Tree*, by Korean artist Byeongdo Moon, can be just that if you want it to be.

Or maybe you're more inclined to imagine what it would be like to wear a bridal dress comprised of wooden flowers constructed from the root of the sustainable, biodegradable shola plant. While you won't be able to try it on, you can swoon over Deborah H. Carter's *Unbridled* as it floats on a leafy hill at The Mount, where both these sculptures are part of *SculptureNow 2023*, on view through Oct. 21. The free, walkable exhibition features 27 sculptures spread out across the landscape of Edith Wharton's former Gilded Age Cottage — along wood paths and the paved road leading up to the house and tucked along paths that take you to the gardens.

There you'll find Robin Tost's *Old Warrior*, a tortoise, the latest in a line of quilted beasts and birds the artist has exhibited in recent years. The sculpture a mix of met-

als sewn together with wire and attached to a frame constructed by Rich Wansor. Its shell is delicately adorned with objects the artist has rescued during trips to a transfer station, giving new life to old objects.

Not far from *Old Warrior* is *Balthazar III*, who you may mistake for a real turkey feeding in its woody locale. Wendy Klemperer has created this sculpture, also known as *Wild Turkey No. 10*, from steel salvaged from old oil tanks, stainless steel and rebar.

In a cage, a figure that is birdlike, but not at the same time, is trapped. *Sarah Alexander's I'm Here, Still Here*, is representative of the human spirit caged by its isolation and inspired by the loneliness of pandemic quarantine.

Susan Arthur's *Osprey Nest* is inspired by the osprey that nest near her home. She questions if the osprey will survive climate change. She imagines herself as one of the birds building a nest. The nest is made of porcelain stoneware sticks, each bone-like in appearance.

After pondering isolation and climate change survival, visit Joy Brown's *One Leaning on Another*, which evokes a sense of calm and quiet intimacy. It's the hug you'll need before exploring the rest of the sculptures, each which will elicit a range of emotions. It's ok — that's what art is meant to do.

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PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HUBERDEAU — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Deborah H. Carter's *Unbridled* is made up of wooden flowers constructed from the root of the sustainable, biodegradable shola plant.

### IF YOU GO

#### SculptureNow 2023

**What:** An exhibition of 27 outdoor sculptures installed across the grounds of The Mount. The Mount's grounds are currently open, free-of-charge, from dawn to dusk. Self-guided tours of *SculptureNow* are free. Audio guides and maps available at ticket booth.

**Where:** The Mount, 2 Plunkett St., Lenox

**On view:** Through Oct. 21

**Monthly guided tours:** 2 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., Sept. 17 and Oct. 15. Guided tours last 1.5 hours.

**Guided tour tickets:** \$18, ages 19 to 64; \$15, 65 and over; \$12, ages 11 to 18; \$7, educational groups; free for children 10 and under.

**For reservations and more information:** 413-358-3884, [sculpturennow.org](http://sculpturennow.org)



*Old Warrior* is the latest in a line of quilted beasts and birds Robin Tost has shown as part of *SculptureNow*.



*I Have Been Dreaming to Be a Tree* by Byeongdo Moon, an artist from Korea.



Benjamin Jose's *Static Vestige* includes an overlay by graphic artist Andy MacDonald.



*Sarah Alexander's I'm Here, Still Here* is comprised of two parts, the outer cage and the inner figure that represents the human spirit.