

# Focal Point: Sculpture at Home

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**The Rye Arts Center's exhibit "Beyond Rodin, New Directions in Figurative Sculpture" will run May 6-June 16. The center is located at 51 Milton Road. For more information or gallery hours, visit [ryeartscenter.org](http://ryeartscenter.org) or call (914) 967-0700.**



Details from  
 "You Wish" by  
 Jed Morfit.

Many homeowners with confidently designed homes, treasured paintings and dramatic architecture go completely blank when it comes to sculpture. Historically though, decorating has always employed sculpture – it has the ability to add energy and power to any room or design plan.

First off, a few definitions: sculpture, as opposed to decorative objects, lives simultaneously in the worlds of idea and 3-D object – sculpture should grab your eye, grab your attention and hopefully, take your soul for a little ride. It should transform the space around it.

Of course, not every piece will do this for you. So how can you decide what works in your space? Start by looking at as many pieces of sculpture by as many different sculptors as you can find, and see what draws you in. The Rye Arts Center, on May 6, will open a major sculpture exhibit, "Beyond Rodin – New Directions in Figurative Sculpture," which can give you one such opportunity.

**Next, try to imagine the piece in your space.** One method that often works when we place sculptures is to look for contrasts – contrasting textures, colors, and forms. For example, organic forms in stone or ceramic work beautifully alongside clean, contemporary design with high-tech textures and lines. And contemporary sculpted pieces in unusual arrangements can be the perfect spice in more traditionally decorated spaces.

**Also, think about spaces both indoors and out.** The pieces will be different – an outdoor piece must use materials selected to survive our winters, but any home can benefit from both. And don't forget, sculpture can just as easily be mounted on walls as in more traditional ways. The Rye Arts Center



"Cat Sings to the Acolytes" by Tricia Cline.

has a powerful piece now on display called "You Wish" by Jed Morfit, which features dozens of plaster bas-relief elements mounted in a frame. It would look gorgeous on any wall.

**Finally, get the piece into the space for a trial.** Any reputable gallery would be happy to accommodate this request. Pay particular attention to the way the sculpture is mounted and placed in your space. Can

it be hung from the ceiling or suspended in the room? Set directly on a shelf or table? Mounted on a bracket emerging from the wall? Set on the floor? Don't just assume sculpture will go on a pedestal. And if it does, work with the artist or gallery to select a pedestal that will support the piece aesthetically.

In the end, your sculpture may well become the focal point of the room or outdoor

space. It will quietly support you with its presence, another living entity.

*Bob Clyatt, curator of The Rye Arts Center's exhibit "Beyond Rodin, New Directions in Figurative Sculpture," is a figurative sculptor living in Rye. For details about the Rye Arts Center exhibit that runs May 6-June 16, visit [ryeartscenter.org](http://ryeartscenter.org) or [clyattsculpture.com](http://clyattsculpture.com).*