

Diana Al Hadid: *Sublimations*– Talking Points

On View May 25, 2019–September 1, 2019

- Diana Al-Hadid is a Syrian-American artist who creates sculptures inspired by paintings throughout art history, playing with the idea of old and new
- The artist focuses heavily on the female form, but distorts the viewer’s perception of her subjects through various processes
  - She is also interested in this idea of distortion, and how a body, or a building can take on characteristics of a landscape, or how a landscape or a building can become personified
- *Sublimations* is an exhibition comprised of a selection of sculptures and wall panels
  - Several sculptures are on view in-gallery at the Frist Art Museum
  - Complimenting the show at the Frist, we have the remaining two sculptures installed on Cheekwood’s grounds
  - These works were most recently on view in a show called *Delirious Matter*, exhibiting in New York City’s Madison Square Park from May–September of 2018
- Built to withstand hurricane-force winds, these sculptures are comprised of a variety of resilient materials, including:
  - Steel
  - Gypsum
  - Fiberglass
  - Powder-coated Aluminum
- The two outdoor works on view at Cheekwood are titled *Citadel* and *The Grotto*
  - Both based on the painting *Allegory of Chastity* by artist Hans Memling (c. 1475; pictured on right)
- *Citadel* is located at Cheekwood’s front entrance gate
  - The form is an indistinct woman, being swallowed by the mountains surrounding her
  - The woman is featureless, suggesting she could be anyone; she is anonymous
  - She is sharp, angular, and unapproachable
  - Visitors are invited to approach the work (within 3-5 feet) and view the sculpture in the round
  - Previously installed over a pond, the gardens team has put in additional plantings beneath *Citadel* in an effort to meld the figure with her surroundings
- *The Grotto* is located in front of the Mansion, on the Great Lawn
  - Taking shape as a massive wall, *The Grotto* is meant to represent the ‘negative space’ surrounding the woman and her mountains in the Memling painting
  - Visitors are invited to approach the work, and pass underneath the sculpture’s archway
- Please discourage visitors from touching, leaning on, or attempting to climb these works!

