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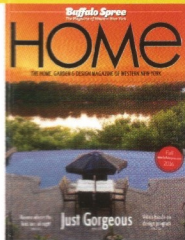


Buffalo Spree

The Magazine of Western New York

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INSIDE:



New Science
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On View/ Bell at BT&C

BY ELIZABETH LICATA

Roberley Bell's abstract sculptures hover on the edge of the recognizable in a friendly way. They nudge the viewer, as though to say "C'mon, you know me!" But they are nonetheless abstract, and, if they contain identifiable objects, those objects have been neutralized and transformed. In the past, Bell's work has been known for its eye-popping color and flamboyant rotundity.

The works in her new series, some things are quieter, though still infused with personality. They employ tree shapes, objects that resemble three-dimensional still lifes, and other, seemingly random forms, put together into thoughtful, meditative wholes. Color is used more as punctuation and never overpowers.

In addition to the small sculptures, Roberley has included a fascinating photographic series, based on the colorful towels hung outside Turkish barber shops, which the artist noticed and documented when she was in Istanbul. Bell has matched the colors of the towels to Pantone's color system, making connections between specific cultural ephemera and the universal affinities that make this ephemera so powerful.

This solo exhibition happens in conjunction with Bell's outdoor installation at Tift Nature Preserve. The installation is beautiful, evocative, and provides yet another reason to explore Tift while the balmy weather holds.

Early One Morning: Roberley Bell is on view at BT&C Gallery, 1250 Niagara Street, September 9–October 22. An open reception takes place on September 9, 6–9 p.m. Visit btandegallery.com for more information.

—Elizabeth Licata

Mixed media sculptures by Roberley Bell, clockwise from top left: *Other Landscape #18*, *Untitled #20*, *some thing*, and *some thing*

