

Sculpture Stroll: A Self-Guided Walk in the Gardens

The Glen Burnie Gardens at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV) boast lush greenery, a grand allée with flowering crabapple trees, and pleasant pathways. The gardens, however, are also filled with sculptures that tell their own stories. Use this guide to identify the sculptures in the MSV Gardens.

Follow the curving path to the left as you pass the Gate House, and look for **Actaeon**, pictured here.



Actaeon was a Greek hero and hunter. According to Greek mythology, when he stumbled across the goddess Artemis (the Romans called her Diana) as she bathed, she turned him into a stag. His own hunting hounds were unable to recognize him in his new form and they turned on him.

This sculpture was most likely made in the 1800s, and purchased by Julian Wood Glass Jr., the last member of the Wood or Glass families to live at Glen Burnie. Julian Wood Glass Jr. chose pieces to make these gardens resemble English country gardens. English gardens often

include copies of famous sculptures and sculptures made to resemble ancient Greek and Roman, also called "classical," statues.



Next, step inside the Family Cemetery on your left. Take a moment to read the names on the stones.

Gravestones are everyday sculptures that often get overlooked.

As you walk through the gate, you'll find yourself in front of the Pink Pavilion.

Pink Pavilion

This pavilion is meant to look like a Renaissance-style structure. The Renaissance was the cultural rebirth of the 1300s through the 1600s in Europe. Crowning the pavilion is a marble bust of



Roman Emperor **Hadrian** (above). Born Publius Aelius Hadrianus, in 76 CE (common era), Hadrian is best known for his ambitious building projects throughout the Roman Empire. He's also known for the wall in northern Britain called Hadrian's Wall.

Walk toward the Pink Pavilion and step around the left side of the building.

This **Hidden Garden** was an unplanned space. The sculpture placed inside makes it feel like an undiscovered treasure.



A stone bust of **Adonis** (left) resides in the garden. Adonis was the god of beauty and desire.

Next, walk to the right of the Pink Pavilion and down the Jasmine Allée. Follow the path to the front of the Carriage House.



Once there, take a moment to look at the **zinc-plated horses** above the doors. Then, head to the back of the brick Glen Burnie House.

Glen Burnie

The sculptures lining the pathways near the house vary in subject. Some are still unidentified. Julian Wood Glass Jr. and his partner Lee Taylor installed them to add



visual interest to the pathways and hedges. They also moved them around. The current sculpture arrangement was designed by Museum staff over the past few years.

The **eagle** about to take flight stands directly behind the Glen Burnie House. In artwork and sculpture eagles can represent anything from victory to speed, longevity, and royalty.



Turn around and follow the path behind you. Look for these other statues in the Knot Garden and Green Garden:



a marble statue of a **mother and child** (left); and a figure of a man, possibly Greek philosopher **Socrates** (below).









Follow the path between the sculptures of the seasons. Turn right at the first opening and you will be in the Statue Garden.



Statue Garden

These sculptures depict Greek and Roman gods and goddesses as well as famous figures. Julian Wood Glass Jr. purchased them from catalogs and art or antique dealers. They are mostly copies of Ancient Greek or Roman artworks.



The tallest sculpture is a terracotta bust of **Julius Caesar** in full armor and with a crown of laurel leaves. Attached to the pedestal is a ram's head ornament. Julius Caesar was born around 100 BCE (before common era) and died March 15, 44 BCE. He was a celebrated Roman general and statesman.

To the left of Caesar is **Apollo** (now oxidized to a green color), the Greek god of music,

healing, light, truth, and more. To the left of Apollo is his sister **Diana** (right), the Roman goddess of the hunt and moon. Other versions of this bust are in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France, and at Windsor Castle in England.



Look for the bust of **Ares** (right) with his tall helmet. Ares is the son of Zeus and Hera and the Greek god of War. This is a reproduction of a Roman copy of the original 420 BCE Greek sculpture by Alkamenes. The original sculpture is in the State Museum of the Hermitage, Saint Petersburg, Russia.



To the left of Ares is **Dionysus** (right), the ancient Greek god of wine, winemaking, theater, fertility, and ritual madness. Dionysus (the Romans called him Bacchus) is often depicted with grapes or



grapes leaves. In this version, the leaves once visible in his hair, are worn down.



Also populating the statue garden is a **Bacchante** or **Maenad** (left). Maenads were the female followers of Dionysus, often depicted as "mad women" who roamed the mountains and forests performing frenzied dances. This sculpture is a

copy of a marble bust by Leandro Biglioschi, an Italian artist working in the 1800s.

Exit the Statue Garden the way you entered. Turn right, walk to the end of the path, and turn left. In front of you will be the Parterre Garden.



Parterre Garden
The Roman god
Mercury takes flight in
the center of this
elaborate parterre (a
level space in a garden

occupied by an ornamental arrangement of flower beds). Mercury, the messenger of the gods, is also god of shopkeepers and merchants, travelers and

merchants, travelers and transporters of goods, and thieves and tricksters. He's often compared to his Greek counterpart, **Hermes**. Many artists borrowed Hermes' attributes of winged sandals, cap, and staff when depicting Mercury. This



sculpture is likely a copy of Flemish artist Giambologna's *Mercury*. Giambologna (1529-1608) too used Hermes's attributes in his version. Another version of Giambologna's sculpture is in the rotunda of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Walk down the front lawn of the house. At the white lamp post, look for the curving path to the right that leads to the Asian and Water Gardens.

Asian Garden

In the Asian Garden, you'll find the Tea House and a pair of Chinese *shi* or *shishi* meaning "stone lion." In China, where this form originated, people



placed them outside buildings to ward off negative energy and spirits. Julian Wood

Glass Jr. and Lee Taylor traveled widely and brought back ideas from the places they saw. This garden shows a variety of Asian influences.



As you venture to the back of the garden you'll see a Japanese lantern and Chinese dragons on the far wall.

After exploring the Asian Garden and Water Garden, turn back toward the Glen Burnie House. Walk to the right of the house, past the right side of the Carriage House to the Iasmine Allée.



Jasmine Allée

As you walk down the Jasmine Allée keep your eyes on the marble statue of **Flora** and her bouquet. In Roman mythology, Flora is the goddess of flowers and the spring season.

As you move past the Pink Pavilion and the Family Cemetery, you'll find yourself back at the Garden Entrance and Gate House.

Thank you for visiting the MSV!



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