

BROOKLYN RAIL

The Miraculous | The Miraculous New York

58. (Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx)

By Raphael Rubinstein | June 2021

Provided with a generous grant from a private foundation, an artist creates a realistic, larger-than-life-size marble sculpture of herself and her life-partner embracing in bed, naked except for a sheet artfully draped across their midsections. The pose is inspired by *Le Sommeil*, Courbet's scandalous painting of lesbian reverie, which itself was inspired by Baudelaire's equally scandalous poem, "Femmes Damnées (Delphine et Hippolyte)." Once finished, the sculpture, which the artist titles *Memorial to a Marriage*, is transported to Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx where it is permanently installed on a plot where she and her lover plan to be buried. At this time same-sex marriage is illegal in all 50 States. "What I can't have in life," the artist explains in an interview, "I will have forever, in death."

(Patricia Cronin, Deborah Kass)

Find this article here: <https://brooklynrail.org/2021/06/miraculous/58-Woodlawn-Cemetery-in-the-Bronx>