

# Hamburg hometown author Jasmine Sawers to release first flash fiction book in October

*Sawers to stop in Hamburg on book tour*

By **Hannah Stein**  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Jasmine Sawers remembers their father reading them fairy tales when they were very young and thinking that something was missing.

Even though Sawers admits that the stories inspired a deep love of writing, the stories were missing representations of culture, among other things.

“For me, there’s something really interesting about going back to the roots of your love of storytelling, and realizing also that you’re not in those stories, because you’re Brown, you know, or you’re not a fairy tale princess. You’re not these archetypes that appear in the stories you love,” Sawers said.

Sawers, a Hamburg native and

now St. Louis resident, is releasing their first flash fiction book, “The Anchored World: Flash Fairy Tales and Folklore” published by the Rose Metal Press on October 11.

Ahead of the book’s release and as part of a book tour, Sawers is holding a book reading at the Hamburg Library on October 7 at 2 p.m. with advance copies of the book for signing.

Sawers’ book tour will also make stops at their alma mater Indiana University and major cities like Chicago, Lexington, Kentucky, New York and Boston.

The book is a collection of 33 flash fiction fairy tales like Snow White and Cinderella, reflecting new modern twists and themes. It also includes Sawers’ completely new stories featuring stories based on Thai tradition.

“There are a lot of problems with the fairy tales we know: they’re deeply sexist, they’re racist, they’re

queerphobic. They’re anti-Semitic, especially if they came out of the Grimm tradition,” Sawers said.

Sawers, grew up not having any stories to read about their Thai culture, especially without being able to read the Thai language and without having access to the internet until age 12. Sawers’ mom was also Muslim and Thai.

“To me there was this urgency to write a mythology that integrated these disparate parts I have myself because of course, I’m not the only you know, mixed person growing up without stories of themselves,” Sawers said.

Sawers is a Kundiman fellow and Indiana University MFA alum whose work has appeared in journals such as Foglifter, AAWW’s The Margins, SmokeLong Quarterly, and more.

The collection of fairy tales tries to reimagine classic stories from different and creative perspectives.



Contributed photo

**Author Jasmine Sawers.**

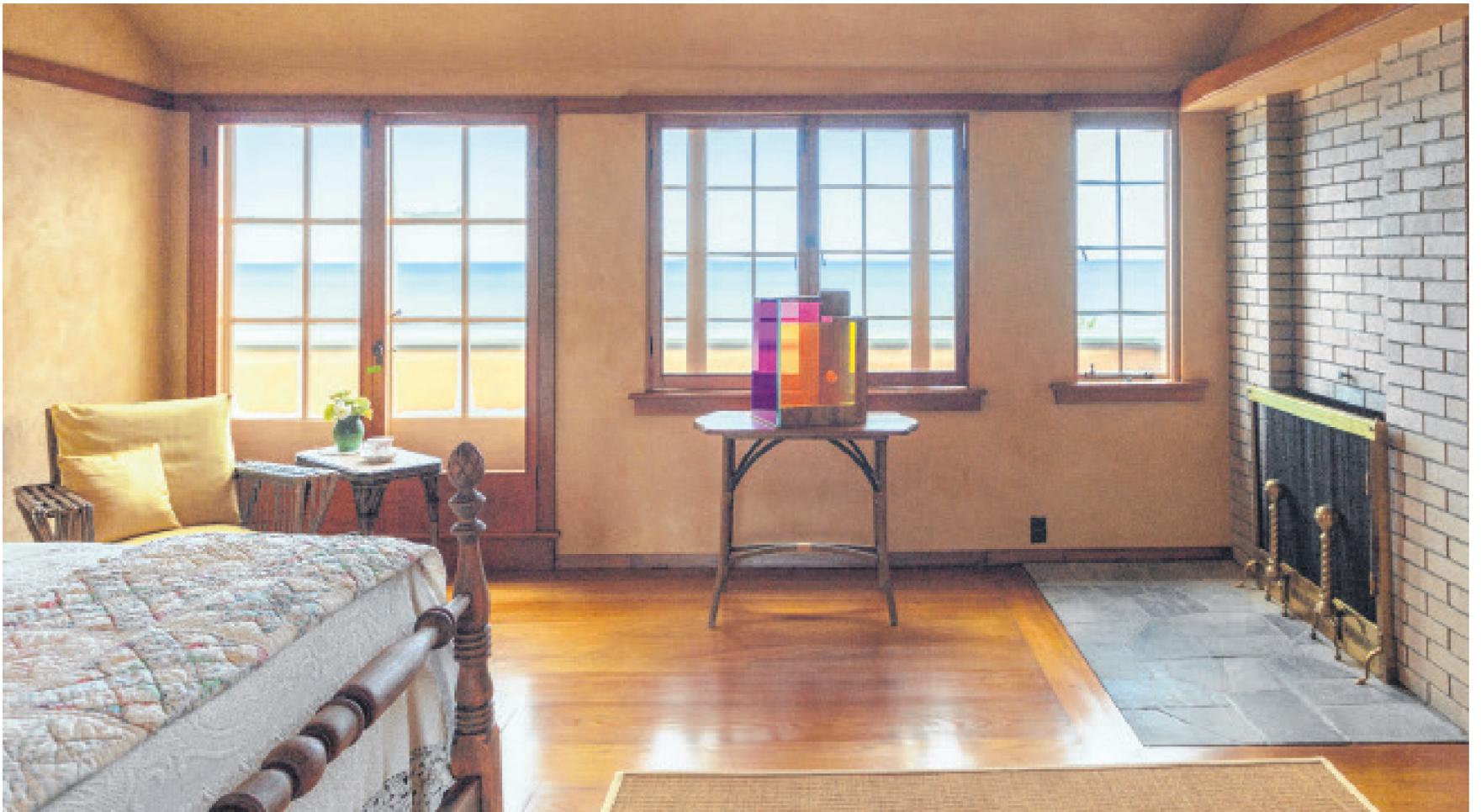
For instance, Sawers reimagining of Snow White is told from the perspective of the seller of the poison apple.

Sawers said they consider this book the highlight of their career.

Sawers plans to write more books in the future.

The book includes mature content and is not intended for very young audiences.

# Public art installation goes up at Graycliff in Derby



Contributed photo by Jeff Mace

**Sarah Braman: Finding Room is on display at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff, 6472 Old Lake Shore Rd., from tomorrow through March 19. The outdoor sculptures will remain on view through October 2023. Visitors must reserve tickets to tour Graycliff and see the works in advance or attend one of Graycliff’s special events, such as the Market at Graycliff.**

By **Francesca Bond**  
SUN STAFF REPORTER

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff in Derby is partnering with Buffalo AKG Art Museum (formerly Albright-Knox Art Gallery) to host an art exhibition both outside and inside of the iconic house.

Artist Sarah Braman’s Finding Room exhibition is on display starting tomorrow through March 19. The outdoor pieces will remain on display through October 2023. Visitors can only see the works by reserving a spot on a tour of Graycliff ahead of time or while attending one of Graycliff’s special events, such as the Market at Graycliff, which runs from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursdays from Aug. 4 through Sept. 15 and is free and open to the public.

Anna Kaplan, executive director at Graycliff, said the exhibition is unlike anything Graycliff has done before.

“It’s an opportunity to invigorate the site with something unexpected,” Kaplan said. “The hope is that the perspective on Wright’s architecture will change because of this

dialogue between the art and the home.”

The exhibition includes 13 sculptures — two large concrete pieces outside and 11 smaller pieces inside of the house, according to the exhibition’s co-curator, Andrea Alvarez.

Braman uses everyday domestic items, such as chairs and desks, in her indoor sculptures. The outdoor sculptures feature panes of highly saturated, colored glass that create shapes in their shadows. One of the sculptures, “Stay,” contains a bookshelf with books hand-selected by Braman. She intends for visitors to sit on the sculpture’s bench or on Graycliff’s lawn and read her books, according to Alvarez.

“She’s taking materials that we ignore all the time, big concrete sculptures, concrete culverts that lie underneath our cities and highways, abandoned desks, abandoned tables, and she takes them and puts them into artwork and it becomes this object that you have a new appreciation for,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez, Buffalo AKG’s assistant curator, collaborated with the museum’s public art coordinator, Zack Boehler, on the exhibition. Both of

them had been interested in Braman’s work for a few years but were waiting for the right moment to plan an exhibition around it, looking for somewhere they could feature both indoor and outdoor sculptures: somewhere like Graycliff.

“It’s really an opportunity to highlight Sarah’s work and to bring this contemporary sculptor into this historic house, but it’s also exciting because people can see Graycliff and this historic home in a new light and really think about how what Wright was doing was remarkably contemporary. He was thinking about materials in a way that a lot of people weren’t in his day,” Alvarez said.

The exhibition is an “incredible opportunity” to show Braman’s artwork in a domestic setting, according to Kaplan.

“When you see art in a white cube, it’s very different than walking into a house and seeing work that draws on ideas a bit domestic and our relationship with our everyday environment,” Kaplan said.

The collaboration with Buffalo AKG also allows Graycliff to offer a new type of programming in addition to their core programming and



Contributed photo by Jeff Mace

broaden their audience, according to Kaplan.

Alvarez hopes that visitors make repeat visits to Graycliff to see how the exhibition changes over the course of four seasons.

“I want to see what they look like in snow,” Alvarez said. “Imagining this big circle of blue that’s landing

now, instead of landing on grass, landing on snow. Our hope is people will see it in the summertime, in the winter, maybe they’ll see it in the fall when the leaves are changing. Every day that we’ve been here, it’s like a different experiences when you see these artworks in changing light conditions.”

## IN BRIEF

### Plymouth Crossroads Annual Tee Off for Teens canceled

Plymouth Crossroads’ 10th Annual Tee Off for Teens Golf Tournament has been canceled.

The event was set to be held on

Aug. 15 at the Diamond Hawk Golf Course in Cheektowaga but will no longer be held due to “unforeseen circumstances.”

Plymouth Crossroads is a non-profit that provides support for runaway and homeless youths.

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