



BROOMFIELD PUBLIC ART BENCH PROJECT 2006

ARTIST INTERVIEW: Mike Clapper

BENCH TITLE: Genesis

WEBSITE: www.michaelclapperstudios.com

Tell us about yourself.

I grew up in northeast Ohio, but left there after high school. I came to the Denver area in 1995 from New York. I held a teaching position at a design school there, but came here with my former wife for her to attend law school. I fell in love with the area. Although the east and west coasts may provide more opportunities for my art career, I have decided to stay here because of the quality of life. I have been teaching at Metro State College for five years now and focusing on my sculpture. My studio is in Denver.

Tell us a little about your background as an artist.

I went to Furniture Design School in Rochester, New York. I created art furniture initially and sold it through galleries on the east coast. When I moved here to Denver, I began carving in stone, and have moved to creating sculpture full time.

Where can we see more of your work?

I have many pieces in the Denver area. Some examples are pieces at the Denver Health Hospital, at the University Center in Parker at Chapparral High School, at the RTD Bus transfer station at Colfax and Federal, in front of the Administration Building for the City of Denver Roads and Trails. Within the next year, I will have a piece installed at the Light Rail Arapahoe Station in Greenwood Village, a piece for the Lowery Foundation and one for a fire station in Fremont, California. My website is www.michaelclapperstudios.com.

What drew you to Broomfield's Bench Project?

I am attracted to local projects. I feel a pride in the Front Range community, and appreciate any opportunity to work here. The idea of moving back to my roots and creating a piece that was also for seating was intriguing. I started creating furniture, but have over the years moved to stone sculpture. It was a great chance to combine my current medium with my initial interests and training.

How did you come up with the idea for your piece?

I studied the description of this site and the history of Broomfield. Midway Park is in some ways the center of community activity. Broomfield Days has gone on here for