



BROOMFIELD PUBLIC ART BENCH PROJECT 2006

ARTIST INTERVIEW: Gary Hauschulz **BENCH:** No Hooky
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Tell us about yourself.

Being born in North Dakota was important for me. I enjoyed a certain wholesomeness there. Hopefully like families being raised in Broomfield now. Dad was a minister and mom raised five wonderful kids in the cold. Minister families seemed to move every several years. So dad preached in Aspen, Denver and Littleton where I graduated from Arapahoe High School. I took eight years of art classes at Metro State College (before they had a campus), finally earning a four year degree. All the while coaching swimming in the Denver and Littleton area. One day the brown cloud spoke to me and said, "Fix your Volkswagon, fish the Western Slope, find a swim team...." God didn't trust my decision-making and sent Grand Junction to Denver to find a swim coach. It was a match made in heaven and we've been together 30 years now, though I've given up coaching. I found my wife and collaborator, Susan Metzger, another match made in heaven. We use our in-home studio for her Batiks and my book illustration; my sculpture studio is outdoors next to Susan's Lavender Fields.

Tell us a little about your background as an artist.

I had rheumatic fever at age 6 when we lived in Aspen. This was the best disease for me to have. I spent all day drawing and looking at drawing books. At the time, there was an artist on TV named John Nagy that gave drawing instruction. I couldn't get enough drawing!

I continued to be sickly in elementary school. My 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Gorman, asked what I did while I was absent. I told her: art. She took an interest and taught me linear perspective and shading. All my public art teachers contributed to my growth. ACC, Metro State and grad school at Alamosa; art education just got better. This Broomfield bench project was an education also. I learned lots of new things by participating in it.

I think that art is something that gets cooler as you get older. As a little kid, I created art at my age level, but as I matured and focused on it, I feel I get better and better. I think that is true for all artists – Picasso is a great example. Compare his realism pieces at age 12 to his pieces at 60-70-80, and you see an evolution of talent.

I am pleased to say that I and my teaching partner, Sal Salas, were awarded the Colorado Art Education Association's *Distinguished Teachers of the Year* for 2006.