



BROOMFIELD PUBLIC ART BENCH PROJECT 2006

ARTIST INTERVIEW: Matt Cartwright

BENCH TITLE: Lotus

WEBSITE: www.cartwrightdesign.com

Tell us about yourself.

My family moved to Broomfield in 1977, and my parents still live here. I have watched Broomfield grow from a community of 10,000. I attended Broomfield Heights Middle School and graduated from Broomfield High School. I studied engineering, first at Colorado School of Mines, and then at CSU. I transferred to the University of New Mexico for two years and began to study art and sculpture. At UNM, I raced mountain bikes. I moved to Portland, Oregon and have been living there for 13 years.

Tell us a little about your background as an artist.

My art studies actually began here in Broomfield – with Ms. Madrid's class at BHMS and Ms. VanderVort at BHS. During my time studying art at UNM, I started creating and selling my paintings. After awhile, I decided that I needed to devote my time to working on my art, and began focusing on that instead of school.

My sculpture work evolved through my mountain biking. I had a job at a bike shop when I first moved to Portland in 1994 and 1995. I started collecting the used bike parts and leftover pieces and assembling them into sculpture. In the winter of 1994, I took a road trip to visit my grandparents in Kansas. My grandfather was a retired pipe fitter. During my time there, he taught me how to weld – and I loved it. Learning welding moved my recycled bike sculpture to the next level. Then, I took a job at a machine shop in Portland and learned the art of metalwork from the shop owner, Mike Gerlin. I worked for a long time for a company called Resource Revival, creating furniture from recycled materials. I now create my original furniture and sculpture from my shop at my home in Portland. I still use many recycled materials.

Where can we see more of your work?

My website is www.cartwrightdesign.com. There are several of my pieces in the Portland area that were purchased privately for public areas. This isn't my first piece in Broomfield - there's also a bit of my art in my parents' back yard.

What drew you to Broomfield's Bench Project?

My Dad saw a story about the project in the Broomfield Enterprise and told me about it. I thought that it was a great opportunity to bring my work back to my hometown.