

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

25 NORTH



Magazine for Northern Colorado



TOAST THE HOLIDAYS

LIVING STONE
AFRICAN SCULPTURE PARK
TAKES SHAPE AT CENTERRA

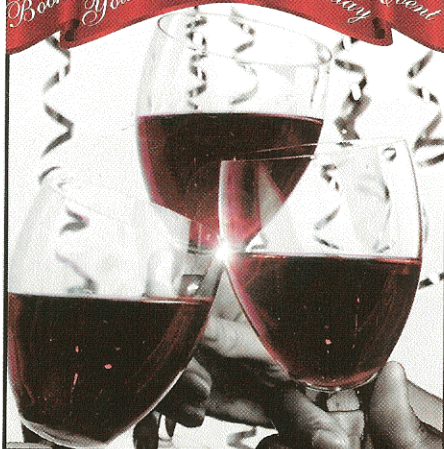
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Welcome to 25 North

Why is Northern Colorado consistently rated one of the best areas to live, play, raise a family and retire? It's the best of both worlds — we enjoy the beauty of the mountains without sacrificing the amenities of shopping, art, culture, entertainment, higher education and fine dining.

But what really makes Northern Colorado great are the people who call this region home. We live an active, affluent lifestyle while taking good care of our environment and community. These values connect us, just as Interstate 25 connects our growing cities and towns.

As our cities grow physically closer around I-25, our bimonthly regional magazine emerges to bring residents together as a community. 25 North will help you navigate Northern Colorado. We'll show you great places to eat without the drive to Denver. We invite you inside the region's most elegant homes and offer the latest trends to make your living space even more comfortable and luxurious.



Above all, 25 North celebrates our Northern Colorado lifestyle. In this issue, we offer ideas for celebrating the holidays close to home and enjoying the start of

powder season in the mountains. We also provide a one-stop source for entertainment in four cities "Up North." Look for our next issue in early January.

We invite you to accompany us on our journey into the hearts and minds of the people who put Northern Colorado on the map. 25 North will serve as a common corridor connecting our communities.

I welcome your story ideas, experiences, suggestions and perspectives at kathystrickland@coloradoan.com. Fasten your seat belt and enjoy the ride.

— Kathy Lee Strickland
editor in chief

25 NORTH

Magazine for Northern Colorado

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Living stone

By Maryjo Faith Morgan

Taylor Nkomo will be the featured artist in an exhibit slated for early 2006 at the new Chapungu Gallery, located in the Promenade Shops at Centerra. Born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in 1953, he is a quiet, humble man gifted with an immense artistic talent.

In 1998, when he retired after 22 years as a graphic artist at the Zimbabwe National Gallery, Nkomo joined Chapungu, where he is able to concentrate on large stone sculptures. Nkomo is a family man who is deeply connected to his culture and its spirituality, often reflected in his sculptures.

On a recent sunny day, Nkomo is at work in the courtyard of Chapungu



Photo by Maryjo Faith Morgan

At right, Taylor Nkomo carves a fish, shown in detail above, at Centerra's Chapungu Sculpture Park.

Sculpture park a taste of Africa

Story and photo by Maryjo Faith Morgan

Polished stone glistens in the sun. Dynamic images larger than life seize the imagination. The force emanating from them is so real, rock seems to breathe. Great stone sculptures hewn by the Shona artists of Zimbabwe's Chapungu Sculpture Park seduce visitors to Loveland's new Promenade Shops at Centerra with their dignity and evocative truth.

A permanent collection of Zimbabwean artwork is being installed at the 27-acre Chapungu Sculpture Park at Centerra, where Dominic Benhura's uplifting creation "Joy" graces the roundabout at the shopping center's entrance. The children's section of the park, nearest P.F. Chang's restaurant, depicts kids interacting with their parents and elders.

"The pieces are a great cultural commentary, a feat not easy when working



with stone," says director Roy Guthrie, who has enriched Loveland's artistic reputation by moving Chapungu's

international headquarters to the city.

Chapungu (pronounced Chä-poon-goo) is the Shona tribe's name for an eagle of great presence, a messenger of the gods that symbolizes a protective spirit, a fitting theme for a place where children are invited to play and explore the sculptures. The next two phases of the park are still in progress, but visitors can get a taste of what's to come at the Chapungu Gallery, located in the shopping center by The Plaza.

Chapungu Sculpture Park in Zimbabwe is a consortium of artists that has persevered through times of political upheaval and the dissemination of their society by the AIDS epidemic. Established in 1979, the group made its Loveland debut in 1991 at Sculpture in the Park. Guthrie hopes to promote communication between artists in Zimbabwe and Northern Colorado, eventually offering classes, demonstrations and special events at Centerra. ■



Photo courtesy Roy Guthrie

Sculpture Park in Loveland. He taps the stone lightly, and tiny slivers slide free. His chalk-covered fingers dust puffs of white from the form of the massive fish that extends beyond his lap.

"The mother fish hides her little ones in her mouth when danger is near.

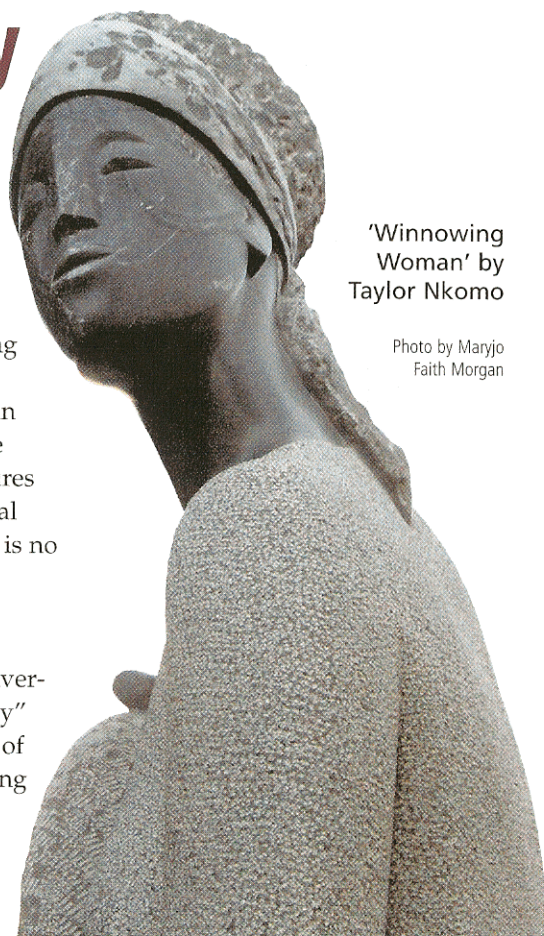
personality

See?" Clearly, bit by bit, the rock is yielding a diminutive "safe inside mama" baby within the aquatic creature's yawning mouth. He smiles, his firm grasp returns the fish back to his lap, and he bends to his work of literally freeing what lies imprisoned in the rock.

Nkomo's inimitable ability lies in coaxing living form from inanimate stone. Materials used in the sculptures include serpentine, springstone, opal stone, limestone and verdite. There is no coloring added, though portions of some pieces are hand-polished to emphasize textures and features.

His work defines an amazing diversity, from the Picasso-like "Visionary" — which displays an inventive use of stone inlay — to the gentle, glistening face of "Grandmother Fetches Water."

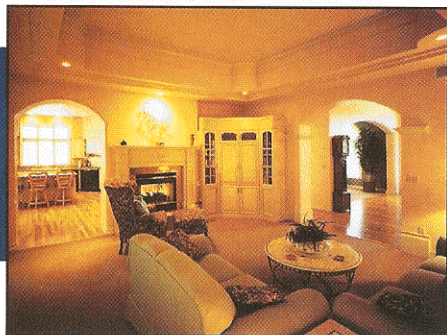
"I cannot imagine doing anything else," Nkomo says. ■



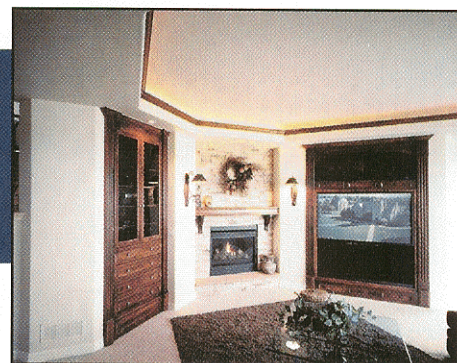
'Winnowing Woman' by Taylor Nkomo

Photo by Maryjo Faith Morgan

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