



BLACK HAWK BY SANDY SCOTT

Main St. & Miners Rd. ☎ 303-582-2297 x 1

Artist Sandy Scott was commissioned to craft two sculptures for the City of Black Hawk. Originally from the Midwest, Scott moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in an effort to be closer to Rocky Mountain wildlife. Her first “Black Hawk” overlooks North Clear Creek from Miners Road pedestrian bridge, gazing downward as if scanning the water for its next meal. Its sister sculpture roosts at the Hidden Treasure Trailhead, located at Maryland Mountain Quartz Valley Park. Scott’s interest in aviation has played a monumental role in her artistry. As a licensed helicopter pilot for nearly 50 years, Scott attributes her ability to depict the illusion of movement, particularly of birds, to her decades of experience in the air.



DAWN OF GLORY BY JOE CIPRI

Main St. near the west entrance of the Lodge Casino ☎ 303-582-2297 x 2

This 20-foot-tall sculpture was created in two pieces because it was too tall to fit inside artist Joe Cipri’s studio! Cipri, a Colorado native, worked on the top and bottom separately before taking both pieces outside to be welded together and delivered to Black Hawk. The sculpture was quite a sight as it was hauled on a 34-foot flatbed trailer through the winding mountain roads. As a Vietnam veteran, Cipri was honored that his towering work would stand between the American and Colorado flags. “The City of Black Hawk made us proud,” Cipri said. Cipri learned sculpting from his uncle and through his own experimentation. He did not expect his hobby to become another career but finds great pride in creating inspirational pieces like “Dawn of Glory.”



WISHFUL THINKIN' BY SHALAH PERKINS

Gregory St. & Selak St. ☎ 303-582-2297 x 3

This playful sculpture serves as a water feature with an endless stream of water pouring out of a cowboy’s boot. It was created by Colorado native Shalah Perkins, a cattle rancher turned sculptor and poet. It was not until after a bout with cancer in her early 40s that Perkins discovered her talents as an artist. Her works are now featured in public and corporate collections all over the Western United States. After learning to sculpt, Perkins found that she was also interested in writing poetry and began composing poems to accompany her bronze pieces. Perkins said, “Somewhere along the way, poetry became half of the whole, part of a physical expression of spiritual beauty so that I think of my art as sculpted poetry.”



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MINER & HIS BURRO



GOLD DREAMIN' BY JOE CIPRI

Gregory St. near Strohle Square Gazebo ☎ 303-582-2297 x 4

Colorado native Joe Cipri said for this project he imagined a miner emerging from an old mine, feeling exhausted at the end of a hard day’s work. Cipri first sculpted this figure out of clay, then used latex rubber to create a mold of the sculpture. Next, he poured a ¼ inch layer of wax into the mold, followed by a batter of liquid ceramic. Cipri separated the sculpture into 24 pieces then heated each one to melt the wax and create a void. Liquid bronze then filled the void and the pieces were welded together. After grinding down the seams, a patina was added to give the entire sculpture an aged appearance. During this process, Cipri made minor adjustments to the facial expression, focusing on the tired, worn appearance of the miner’s eyes.



MINER & HIS BURRO BY DEE CLEMENTS

Gregory St. near Strohle Square Gazebo ☎ 303-582-2297 x 5

Colorado artist Dee Clements wanted his bronze sculpture called “Miner and His Burro” to represent a story of what life was like in the early days of Black Hawk. The City of Black Hawk is a historic mining settlement founded in 1859 during the Colorado Gold Rush, so characters in Clements’ piece would have been typical for this era. Clements said, “When you are working on a sculpture, you are thinking about what you’re trying to capture. Those were really tough people; they were mountain men and life was rugged.” Prior to sculpting, Clements served in the Army as a helicopter pilot. He estimates having created about 300 sculptures in representational bronze during his work as an artist, many of them historic in nature.



COURAGE TO LEAD BY DENNY HASKEW

Selak St. & Black Hawk Blvd. ☎ 303-582-2297 x 6

This stunning triad of monumental bronze sculptures was created by Colorado artist Denny Haskeew and is considered one of his signature works. Haskeew is a member of the Potawatomi Citizen Nation, and began work on this piece after learning about the Sacred Arrow Society of warriors. This piece took Haskeew more than five years to complete. Haskeew worked to portray the emotion of the ceremony by placing warriors in contorted positions, crouched and bent backward to aim their sacred bows and arrows skyward in a depiction of strength and courage. The warriors then bared their chests as arrows rained down around them, knowing they had spiritual protection.



THE FISHING HOLE BY JIM GILMORE

Mountain Life Park, Black Hawk Blvd. ☎ 303-582-2297 x 7

Jim Gilmore, a Colorado native, had been managing his family’s cattle ranch near Alamosa when he decided to take a year off to pursue his dream of being an artist. Since that decision in the early 1980s, Gilmore has created a number of wildlife inspired sculptures. In this depiction, Gilmore crafted a mama bear and her three cubs to make up the public installation known as “Fishing Hole.” Gilmore said, “Bear cubs are naturally very playful. For the two cubs on the log looking down, I decided to place one cub’s paw on the top of the head of the other cub to evoke that playful nature.”



CANYON SPIRIT BY JIM GILMORE

Mountain Life Park, Black Hawk Blvd. ☎ 303-582-2297 x 8

With this bronze cougar sculpture, Colorado artist Jim Gilmore wanted to depict the way big cats silently stalk their prey. Here, the cougar carefully creeps down a tree branch with eyes locked onto its target. “I wanted the anatomy of the cat’s tensed muscles and the balance of its tail to be dead-on. It’s a great feeling when you hit something just right,” Gilmore said. As a kid growing up on a cattle ranch in southern Colorado, Gilmore took to drawing, painting, and later tooling leather. When he was a teenager, Gilmore’s father bought an old wooden narrow-gauge boxcar and set it up as an art studio for his son. Following his father’s passing, Gilmore took over the ranch, where he still lives and brings his wildlife works to life.



HEADED FOR THE HIGH COUNTRY BY JIM GILMORE

Mountain Life Park, Black Hawk Blvd. ☎ 303-582-2297 x 9

Colorado artist Jim Gilmore crafted this life-sized royal bull elk featuring 12-point antlers. “I am a real fan of elk and photograph them all the time. They are majestic animals, the big bosses,” Gilmore said. In working on this piece, Gilmore wanted the composition to embody movement. With head held high and front legs bent underneath, the elk appears to be in the process of leaping forward. This piece joins other examples of Gilmore’s work at Mountain Life Park in Black Hawk. This was the last piece the City acquired in 2007, reaching its goal of collecting enough sculptures to accurately depict the wildlife and history in this Old West gold-mining town.



PHOTOGRAPHY

AB: Ashlee Bruewer

WELCOME TO HISTORIC BLACK HAWK, COLORADO

Since its history-making lode gold strike of 1859, the City of Black Hawk has built a legacy of progressive growth and economic opportunity, enduring beyond the boom-bust cycles of hard-rock mining and milling.

1859: Prospector John H. Gregory first discovered lode gold in a narrow ravine that was then part of the Kansas Territory. The Gregory Diggings drew thousands of would-be miners seeking their fortunes.

1864: Black Hawk became incorporated as Colorado's second oldest city after ingenuity and natural resources helped Black Hawk become the milling center for gold and silver ore mined throughout the region.

1872: Black Hawk is connected with Denver by railroad to bring refined gold and silver from the Boston and Colorado Smelting Works.



TWO OPTIONS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH SCULPTURE

Would you like to learn more about each sculpture and artist? Look for the phone icon by the sculpture or on this map and call the number for additional background, or scan the QR code by each photo with the camera app on your phone.

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OR



1 City • 9 Sculptures
A gold rush of Colorado history



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