

Robert Tully

*Cloudscape*, 2004

Marble Cloud with Chimes, 4 x 8 x 4 feet

Limestone Bear with Marble Cloud, 3 x 10 x 4 feet

Limestone Big Horn Sheep with Marble Cloud, 3 x 6 x 2 feet

On a recycled rubber surface with tree and stream design

As a part of the 2004 streetscape renovation in Vail, artist Robert Tully of Louisville, Colorado was commissioned to create a site-integrated work in Eaton Plaza entitled *Cloudscape*. The plaza is dedicated to the memory Earl Eaton, a founder of Vail who in 1957 guided his friend and co-founder Pete Seibert on a hike that led them to the vistas of what is now Vail ski resort.

The installation consisting of three large sculptures, not only reflect the Colorado environment, but are interactive and meant to be engaged as “play sculptures.” The large cloud sculpture and cloud portions on the animals are composed of Colorado marble, while the bodies of the bear and big horn sheep are constructed in limestone. A few areas of the works are painted by hand, honing on the ancient tradition of painting stone, including the leafy garland around the bear that happens to weigh in total 5 tons.

Tully describes *Cloudscape* as an imaginary landscape with the “Clouds as a unifying element, not only having traditional elements, but creative new elements like the chimes.” The chimes are tuned to specific notes and play different harmonies depending upon which chime is initially touched by hand or by the wind. The elements of the installation are placed on a recycled rubber material with the red signifying the earth, while the blue is a symbol of the nearby stream.

Robert Tully’s public work is located throughout the country. Two significant works in Colorado can be found at the playground at the Denver Children’s Museum and at Colorado State University. Most recently, Tully completed a commission for the entrance to Whistler village for the 2010 Olympic Games. His work can be enjoyed in other locations in Vail and surrounding playgrounds

- Molly Eppard, Art in Public Places, Coordinator