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July 27
through
August 2, 2005

Published by
Verde Valley Newspapers, Inc.



Barbara Brown
unveils
"Douglas the Dragon"

Magical Transformations

Sedona sculptor Barbara R. Brown unveils 'Douglas the Dragon'

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Sedona sculptor Barbara R. Brown recently unveiled the new man in her life. His name is "Douglas the Dragon."

Their relationship began in 2000 when Barbara began creating him from her imagination. Standing over 3 feet tall and weighing 203 pounds, Douglas represents new beginnings as he gazes quizzically at a dragonfly on his finger while holding a globe in the palm of his hand.

"I sculpted his hand to hold the world and I didn't know it until it was done," Barbara quips.

Calling herself an eclectic artist, she decided to create a dragon after the idea was presented to her three times. When something is mentioned three times, she pays attention, she explains. The name Douglas popped in her head three times and so he was thus christened.

"He represents magical possibilities," Barbara says from her studio, Sculpture in Sedona. "He was created during a time of new



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in 1993 from California. She no sooner arrived than she decided to take a class in sculpting with local legend Eugenia Everett at the Sedona Arts Center. She was apprentice to Dr. John M. Soderberg for more than four years and still counts him as her mentor and close friend. With Soderberg, she studied all aspects of sculpting, casting, and worked extensively with pre-cast wax molds. On June 21, 2004, Barbara opened her dream school, Sculpture in Sedona. Located at 50 Stutz Bearcat Drive, Suite 10, the studio offers instruction in a variety of sculpting techniques and materials for all levels, from beginner to advanced. For a schedule, call 282-2247.

Barbara created Douglas using classic clay that was developed by Soderberg and a chemist. She enjoys working with this heat-sensitive clay, she says, because it's versatile and has more strength than others. Next, she added stainless steel rods to prop his wings. She then created his scales one

beginnings for me."

Prior to back-to-back automobile accidents that left her unable to use her arms and hands for two years, she had worked as a professional hairdresser for 35 years. She had started Douglas before the accidents, and it was the first project she sculpted when she recovered. During her rehabilitation she became re-educated and currently works part time as a digital graphic artist at The Turning Point.

Originally from New Hampshire, Barbara moved to Sedona

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"Douglas the Dragon" in his new patina birthday suit.



Skurja Art Castings in Prescott transforms "Douglas the Dragon" with gold wings and polished gold claws.

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at a time, which took about two years to complete. Douglas was then taken to master mold maker Jeff Christensen of Sedona. The finished mold then went to Skurja Art Castings in Prescott, where they cast him in bronze. After three to six months, the final result revealed an adorable "Douglas the Dragon," complete with turquoise body, gold wings and polished gold finger and toenails.

"He weighs less than I expected," Barbara reveals.

The remnants of Douglas' clay model remain in her studio.

"Douglas will live here in clay forever," Barbara concedes. "I feel he's my pet."

While partial to reptiles and dinosaurs, Barbara says she's now "hooked on dragons." In fact, she has made a handful of smaller dragons using water-based clay. Many fans remark that her dragons resemble a dog, she says stroking Douglas' chin. Perhaps it's the figure "8" shaped tail or wrinkled nose that sparks similarities. Regardless, people of all ages seem drawn to Douglas and many have tracked his progress at the



Photo by Berte Walsh

Sculptor Barbara Brown says one last good-bye to "Douglas the Dragon" before sending him to the Joe Wilcox Fine Arts gallery where he now awaits a new home.

studio. He was unveiled during the Sedona Art & Sculpture Walk on April 29, also Barbara's birthday.

Douglas is the first of an edition of 50 bronze pieces and is currently for sale for \$22,000 at Joe Wilcox Fine Arts gallery, 300 N. Arizona 89A, Suite 1, in Sedona. Barbara also will be the gallery's featured artist during the "1st Thursday

- Evening in the Galleries" event on Aug. 4, 5-8 p.m. Her one-of-a-kind water-base clay pieces can be found at Moon Shadow Gallery and Gift Shop, 1123 N. Main St., in Old Town Cottonwood.

For more information about Barbara or her sculpture classes, call 301-5382 or visit www.sculptureinsedona.com.



Brown displays the remnants of Douglas' clay model in her studio.