



MAY 9, 2005
DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN



THE DEDICATION OF
Mount 'n View

About the Artist



Nina Akamu was born in Midwest City, Oklahoma. As the daughter of an Air Force serviceman, much of her childhood was spent living in the Far East. She graduated from the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore in 1977. She spent the next twelve years in Italy where she studied Renaissance art and obtained extensive training in traditional sculpture techniques.

Akamu became a member of the National Sculpture Society, the youngest artist accepted since its inception in 1893. In 1990, she became the youngest sculptor to be advanced to Fellow in the National Sculpture Society. Her twenty-five year sculpture career has garnered her numerous national awards from prestigious organizations such as the National Academy of Design, National Sculpture Society, Allied Artists of America, National Arts Club and Society of Animal Artists.

Akamu uses metaphorical language, aesthetic qualities, and interest in anatomy to create memorable works. She is perhaps best known for her monumental bronze equine sculpture that pays homage to Leonardo da Vinci. She created an eight-foot model and oversaw the enlargement of two 24-foot bronze horses. The first bronze horse, *Leonardo da Vinci's Horse*, was dedicated in Milan, Italy in September 1999; the second, *The American Horse*, was dedicated in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Frederik Meijer Sculpture Gardens in October 1999. Carried to all parts of the globe by Reuters and Associated Press, it was featured as a cover story on the front page of the *New York Times*. It appeared as the cover of various magazines, including *Smithsonian Magazine*; in addition, articles and photo spreads appeared in *Time* and *People Magazine*.

The National Memorial to Patriotism, another of Akamu's challenging commissions, is placed 600 yards from our nation's capital. The sculpture features two golden cranes, symbols of happiness and longevity, freeing themselves from an entanglement of barbed wire. A monument of deep moral and historic significance, it is a powerful symbolic presentation of not only the unique experiences of Japanese Americans during WWII but of all freedom loving people. This work was inspired by personal experiences of her family interned during WWII. The National Sculpture Society awarded the prestigious Henry Hering Award to the Memorial in 2002.



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Mount 'n View is a gift to the citizens of Dowagiac
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*"Perhaps the modern Leonardo da Vinci's Horse can be seen as a symbol for
the power and momentum of creative energy and a vision which is directed
and focused on a distant goal."*

— *Nina Akamu, sculptor*

Nina Akamu
Slide Lecture on
The Creation of *The American Horse*
May 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Dale A. Lyons Building
Southwestern Michigan College

You are invited to meet the sculptor
at a reception following the lecture