

# Spearheading Vail’s Artist in Residency Program

Squire Broel is Vail's inaugural artist in residence

**Laura Lieff**  
Special to the daily

Public art is meant for the masses – and that’s exactly why artist Squire Broel is here. In an effort to maintain and contribute to the cultural vitality of the Vail Valley, the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program strives to collect educational and attractive works of art in public places that add to the area’s overall aesthetic quality.

Led by a five-member board that meets monthly to discuss projects and direction, the AIPP’s goals include:

- Elevate the beauty of the Vail community by placing eye-catching visual art in highly accessible public places for residents and guests to enjoy.
- Develop a high-quality public art collection that demonstrates a variety of style, scale, and media.
- Foster a public education component that stimulates discussion and a deeper understanding of the visual arts.
- Encourage and support artists who are interested in contributing to the public realm.



DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

**SQUIRE BROEL, 6** Squire Broel sketches near one of his sculptures.



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ARTIST INTERACTIONS

In addition to having his artwork on display, Broel will share his artistic process with participants through a variety of events taking place July 25-28:

Tuesday, July 25 | 9:15 – 11 a.m.

Artist Discussion and Sketch

- ▶ Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the entrance to the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Ford Park.
- ▶ Learn about Broel’s art, practices, inspirations, and creations.
- ▶ Walk with him through the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens and finish with an optional opportunity to sketch with the artist. Souvenir fieldnotes books and materials provided.

SQUIRE BROEL

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According to AIPP Coordinator Molly Eppard, “accessibility is a big part of this program, as well as featuring art within the environment. The work is accessible to the community in such a way that it becomes part of the everyday texture allowing people to become familiar with it.”

NEW PROGRAM

Kicking off the inaugural year of the Artist in Residency program is Squire Broel — an artist who works with bronze and hails from the Pacific Northwest. Currently on display within the entrance to the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater and the Town of Vail’s Welcome Centers in Vail Village and Lionshead Village, Broel’s seven-foot totemic structures

Wednesday, July 26 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- ▶ With a selection of works by Broel on view in the Welcome Centers, the artist will participate in the Wednesday Art Walks to discuss his work, the Residency, and the public art throughout Vail.

Friday, July 28 | All Day

- ▶ Meet at Ford Park’s lower bench (crossing from the Manor Vail Covered Bridge and West Betty Ford Way).
- ▶ As the summer Artist in Residency program comes to a close, meander around the community art project created with Broel.

illustrate his deep connection with nature.

“I look at art as providing the potential to be more generous in our thinking and more creative when we are open to things that are different,” Broel says. “I’m excited to see what happens when guests encounter something that is out of the ordinary or out of context and think about it each time they walk by.”

Constructed of bronze, aluminum, resin, and wood, Broel says the totemic structures echo the American West’s untamed spirit, vast rugged landscapes, and traditions of mysticism. The artist also explains that his inspiration came from growing up in a rural area, spending time around farmers, and enjoying how much beauty can be found in simple things.

SQUIRE BROEL, 7



DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

Town of Vail Artist in Residence Squire Broel sits next to one of three of his sculptures on display this month at the entrance to the Ford Amphitheater.

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One of three sculptures by Town of Vail Artist in Residence Squire Broel, on display this month at the entrance to the Ford Amphitheater.

DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

**SQUIRE BROEL**  
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“What resonates with me is having a connection to the land, spending time in nature, and being thoughtful in the midst of that,” Broel explains. “I’ve had the pleasure of conversing with a lot of people since arriving [in Vail] and there is a deep level of connectedness to the environment and a level of sophistication in terms of art and nature. It has already been a full-rounded experience.”

**HONORED TO BE FIRST**  
As the first Artist in Residence, Broel has been afforded the freedom to take the program in the direction that he feels works best for the community. “I am hugely honored to be the first and there is a real sense of humbleness as well,” he says. “Launching this program and engaging with the community is a thrill because I’m hoping this experience showcases its potential and helps move it forward to in a positive way.”  
Eppard says that she and the Board are looking forward to learning from Broel and having open communication about what’s working and what could be done differently going forward. Ultimately the Artist in Residency program will feature a different artist every summer — an opportunity for each of them to retreat, create art in Vail, and have the community continue to learn about and gain exposure to new artists.



**Exhibit  
Featuring  
Tim Sears**

**July 21-27**

Tim interprets local landscapes in fresh ways. He works to highlight the unfolding ‘visual poetry’ that strikes him the most. In college, Tim spent summers living and working in Eagle County.



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