



Travis Krause with "In the Current." Made in homage to the nearby Poudre River, this piece features six fish in an underwater scene.

## An Artist's Perspective: "In the Current" by Travis Krause

Travis Krause, a Colorado artist and angler at heart, will dedicate the commissioned public art piece, "In the Current," located at the Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., on Friday, April 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. in conjunction with First Friday. This piece is located to the right of the double doors to the pool, allowing visitors to meditate on their relationship with nature when taking a dip into the pool.

"In the Current," by local artist, Travis Krause, is an original public art installation that welcomes visitors to the newly remodeled lobby and pool entrance of the Downtown Greeley Recreation Center. This is the perfect home for this work as it is intended to inspire people to play and enjoy opportunities for recreation.

The value of recreation cannot be understated as a way to cope with life's daily demands and stress. Recreation, in today's hectic society, encourages well-being and balance. The dividends for honoring our playful human nature are countless. Art, also, plays an important role in encouraging vibrant, thriving lives. This artwork interprets an underwater scene from a nearby river, which amplifies these benefits. Being in nature and viewing images of our natural world heals and soothes. Several reports and studies show that humans are genetically programmed to connect with nature and images of wilderness. This has a positive impact on the physical (lowered blood pressure, increased function of the endocrine, nervous and immune systems) and mental (suspension from mental chatter, pain and stress and provides a respite for over stimulated minds) well-being of the viewer. Recreation, nature, and art synthesize in rejuvenating the human spirit. This prepares people to go back to their daily activities with increased awareness, productivity and creative capacity.



Greeley Recreation Center, Installed Feb. 2019, 48"x108", Acrylite panels and fish silhouettes, reverse glass painted with acrylic

"In the Current," pays homage to the nearby Poudre River, this piece features six fish in an underwater scene. Three of these trout are layered in front to create interesting dimension as they reach out from the background to create illusory depth. The trout overlaying the right panel is a representation of the Colorado state fish, which was, until recently, thought to be extinct. In 2012, a handful of these trout were "re-discovered". This Colorado Greenback Cutthroat is featured in recognition of the recent restocking efforts of several conservation groups. Currently,

Colorado Trout Unlimited and Colorado Parks and Wildlife are hosting events to restore the Colorado state fish to several native habitats.