

# Downtown Carnegie Library

## "Zeki"



Kings Valley sculptors Raymond Hunter and Czarina Gupton, father and daughter, created the 9-foot tall piece.

The piece is meant to commemorate the work of school teachers and makes references to a child's education. The sculpture features renditions of books and building blocks, two cornerstones of early childhood education. A dinosaur perched on the blocks recalls children's toys and the Earth's prehistoric past. A titanium globe expresses people's boundless horizons. The roots of a white oak, a tree indigenous to the mid-valley, spill over the educational components of the sculpture, uniting the worlds of nature and human intellect. A radiant sun tops the piece and is meant to be a companion to the sunflower on top of a sculpture in the park at First Avenue and Lyon Street. Hunter also made that sun.

The whole thing is called "Zeki," which Boock says is "reminiscent of childhood endearments and nicknames while it pays tribute to Semir Zeki, a world leader in neuroesthetics, the science that studies the neural basis of creativity and artistic appreciation."

The sculpture can be enjoyed on many levels, in Boock's view: It is at once fun and deeply reflective, he said. Hunter and Gupton used shimmering on the sculpture so as the light changes, the color varies from a pinkish red to a bluish green. The sun's color goes from the bluish green to a gold color. "Our end goal is to spread joy," Hunter said.

"Zeki" is a gift of the Wanita Robb Sculptural Trust and the Albany Arts Commission.