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CULTURE. CURRENT.

DW

THE DALLAS WEEKLY

ZIMBABWE COMES TO DALLAS!

ZIMSCULPT MESMERIZES AT
THE DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

MAY 2017

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PG. 4

**BALCH SPRINGS
OFFICER WHO KILLED
TEEN JORDAN
EDWARDS FIRED**



Nature and art collide at ZimSculpt on display until July 31st at The Dallas Arboretum Botanical Garden. Pictured above Watchful Eye sculpted by Lazarus Vamunda. The statuesque bird fits in perfectly with the always stunning floral sights of the garden. (Photo Courtesy of The Dallas Arboretum)

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Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson Hosted A World of Women for World Peace Conference

DALLAS – On Saturday, April 29, 2017, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson hosted her annual conference, *A World of Women for World Peace* at UNT Dallas College of Law.

The conference is held annually to bring a greater visibility to women who are victims of war and aggression and women who promote peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building activities in their communities. This year's conference addressed the Israel-Palestine peace process and promoted a discussion of new ideas for a lasting solution to the conflict. "I believe a two state solution is necessary in settling the conflict between Israel and Palestine," said Congresswoman Johnson.

The conference featured a panel of three dynamic individuals who are peace activists and promote peacebuilding along with two keynote speakers. The keynote speakers were Hamutal Gouri and Yousef Bashir. Hamutal Gouri, serves as the Executive Director for the Dafna Fund, responsible for working with the board to develop grant making strategies and priorities, initiate proactive programs designed to strengthen the



feminist and women's organizations arena in Israel.

The other notable panelists were Imam Omar Suleiman, Muslim Community Leader; Rabbi Nancy Kasten; Reverend Vonceil Jones Hill. The panelists and keynote speakers engaged with participants in a Q&A session as well. Additionally Congresswoman Johnson awarded Ms. Gouri and Mr. Bashir both with the Tomorrow's Peace-builder Award (pictured above).

WE
HEAR
YOU



I bet you won't say that to my face. DW's readers are opinionated, and for good reason. Read something, say something, get published is how it's done.



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ZimSculpt. Art and Nature Collide and Coalesce

Dallas is fortunate enough to have artists from all over the world come to showcase their exhibitions. Museums like The African-American Museum, The Dallas Museum of Art, and The Nasher Sculpture Garden all house works that captivate viewers and add to the overall artistic landscape of the city. Being able to witness visual art around the city is a privilege many Dallas residents may not realize. Whether riding the D-Link and viewing public art around the city or viewing murals much like the ones painted on *The DW* offices, it indeed elevates our city for art to be so accessible.

Against this backdrop, insert The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. A venue some see as a natural beauty perfectly polished for many residents to enjoy. The garden is blanketed in gorgeous blooms, manicured lawns, and gorgeous seating areas that combine nature and urban-living perfectly. But to view the Dallas jewel as such would be quite short-sighted. The venue transforms into an outdoor exhibition space with precisely placed sculpture that couples so immaculately with the garden that patrons will feel more that they are in an artist sanctuary of sorts.

Viewing the artists at ZimSculpt, creating pieces from



start to finish, is truly a treat. The ability to go on the creative journey with the sculptor as well as witness the final product gives an unparalleled perspective of the world of art. We encourage our readers to visit The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical garden to witness ZimSculpt firsthand. The exhibit's presence here is a true compliment to the varied works of art visitors can view around our city. We invite you to take a look and tell them *The DW* sent you.

The DW Staff



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EX-OFFICER MICHAEL SLAGER PLEADS GUILTY IN SHOOTING DEATH OF WALTER SCOTT

By Holly Yan, Khushbu Shah and Emanuella Grinberg, CNN

CNN - In a plea deal with federal prosecutors, former South Carolina police officer Michael Slager admitted Tuesday to using excessive force in the shooting death of Walter Scott.

Slager shot Scott in the back as the unarmed man was running away from Slager after a traffic stop in April 2015. In a reversal from his previous account of events, Slager admitted in court Tuesday that he did not shoot Scott in self-defense and said that his use of force was unreasonable.

Scott's death sparked renewed "Black Lives Matter" protests after the 50-year-old became the latest in a series of unarmed black men killed by police.

With his family and Scott's family present, Slager pleaded guilty in US District Court in Charleston to a federal charge of deprivation of rights under the color of law. In exchange for the plea, state murder charges, as well as two other federal charges, will be dismissed.

Slager faces a maximum penalty of life in prison when he is sentenced later this year.

"We hope that Michael's acceptance of responsibility will help the Scott family as they continue to grieve their loss," Slager's attorney, Andy Savage, said.

Slager was an officer for the North Charleston Police Department when he pulled Scott over for a broken tail light. A few moments later, Scott ran away.

A foot chase ensued, and a bystander's cell phone video captured Slager firing eight times -- striking Scott several times in the back.

For in depth coverage, visit dallasweekly.com/national

ALTON STERLING SHOOTING DEATH: REPORTS SUGGEST NO FEDERAL CHARGES

By Steve Almasy, Azadeh Ansari and Elliott C. McLaughlin, CNN

CNN -- The Justice Department might close its investigation into the police shooting death of Alton Sterling without pursuing charges, according to media reports. The Washington Post and The New York Times reported that multiple sources told them the US Justice Department, which led the investigation into the 2016 shooting of Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will not seek charges against the officers.

CNN has not independently confirmed the Post and Times reports.

The Justice Department has not communicated to anyone a decision regarding the officers involved in the case, spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores told CNN. When there is a decision, the family will be notified first and then the Justice Department will hold a news conference, she said.

Two attorneys for the Sterling family and a family member told CNN on Tuesday evening they have not heard from the Justice Department on a decision in the case, in which two white police officers were involved in the shooting while trying to detain Sterling, a black man, outside a Baton Rouge convenience store on July 5.

Sterling's aunt said she has not heard from federal authorities.

"It's not right. Lord have Mercy. Oh my God," Sandra Sterling said by phone.

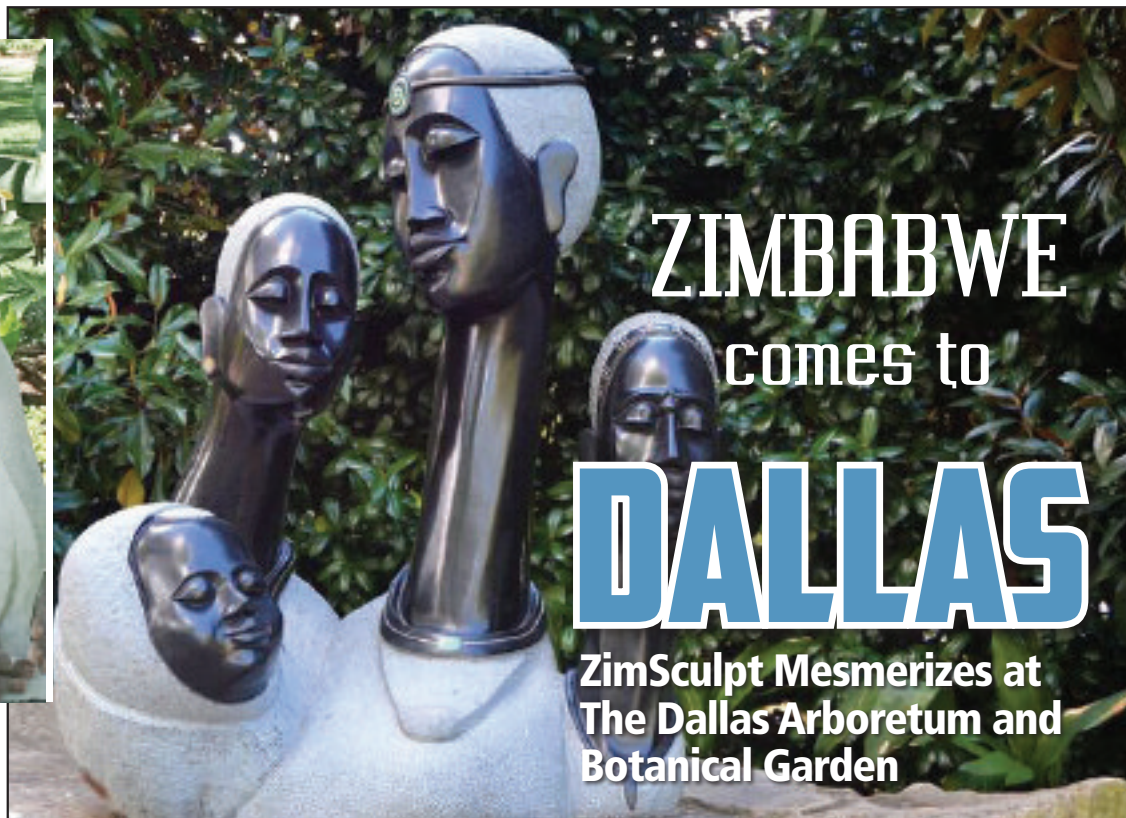
The shootings set off protests across Baton Rouge and beyond and became an important chapter in the national discussion of how police interact with minorities. The officers -- Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake II -- were placed on paid administrative leave after the shooting.

People began gathering outside the Triple S Food Mart on Tuesday after reports of a decision surfaced publicly.

For in depth coverage, visit dallasweekly.com/national



Zimbabwean sculptor Passmore Mupindiko amazes onlookers as his chisels away at his soon-to-be finished guinea fowl.
(Photo Credit: Elena Washington)



ZimSculpt Mesmerizes at The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

WORDS BY ELENA WASHINGTON

Dallas is fortunate to be an international hub for a variety of industries that bring to it a vast array of people from various backgrounds.

This spring we are privileged as a city, to be able to experience culture through art with ZimSculpt.

Thanks to The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Perry-Miller Real Estate, The Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District and Neiman Marcus, patrons can expect an up close and personal experience with Zimbabwean sculpture that is unparalleled in the southern United States. Organized by collectors Vivienne and Joseph Croisette, the exhibit features over 100 pieces of hand-carved Zimbabwean art and is on display for the first time in the southern U.S. until July 31st, 2017. All pieces are available for sale and visitors are encouraged to shop as they admire.

The work demands attention as guests meander through the exhibit. Pieces like *Zulu Queen* by Tafadzwa Tandii blend with the multi-colored blooms creating a Zimbabwean fantasy land, complete with royalty and lavish buds. The rich and deep texture of the serpentine and semi-precious stones juxtaposed against the smooth silkiness of freshly bloomed spring buds takes the senses on an adventure without having to leave the city. Works like Lazarus Vamunda's *Watchful Eye*, a hand sculpted stone bird whose form so perfectly mimics the biodiversity surrounding it, the viewer will be hard-pressed to judge that the piece is



Wind Spirit by Edmore Sango perfectly pairs with the breeze felt as onlookers stroll through the garden.
(Photo Courtesy of The Dallas Arboretum)

not there all year round. The artwork imitates life and nature, which effortlessly surrounds each sculpture. Children and families can be heard enjoying the exhibit as much as the animal patrons who attend the garden every day. ZimSculpt's pairing with The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden conjures feelings of jubilation as nature and art

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ZimSculpt Mesmerizes at The Dallas Arboretum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

intertwine.

The exhibit is made possible because of the constant work of ZimSculpt founder Vivienne Croisette, her husband and partner Joseph Croisette, and 250 Zimbabwean sculptors. Vivienne credits each artist for bringing his or her unique style to each piece, all of which represent Shona sculpture. The overall experience of the exhibit is elevated with the presence of two artists whose work is represented in the garden. Aron Kapembeza and Passmore Mupindiko, two visiting artists who are available onsite, actively demonstrate for onlookers the art of creating Shona sculpture.

Aron Kapembeza comes to Dallas as a sculptor who was exposed to the art form by his Aunt. By honing his craft, Kapembeza now creates gorgeous works centering mainly on ladies. The artist spoke to *The DW* about his reverence for women and their abilities to work hard and persevere through adversity. He drew on his own experiences, growing up in Zimbabwe, and witnessing the determination of the matriarchal figures in his life. The talented artist can be seen working on his latest pieces at the Pop-Up Zimbabwean Marketplace located in the garden. He is available to have works commissioned and also has pieces for sale in the wider exhibit.

Passmore Mupindiko began carving at 7 years old and worked mainly with wood. He learned the craft from his grandfather who passed the practice down to his father. The patriarchal influence surrounding Passmore's art is as apparent as the matriarchal influence surrounding Aron's work. Both sculptors carry innate artistic skill that comes with having familial ties to artists. When asked what drives the him to create Mupindiko responded, "I found I had a natural talent, and that I was good at sculpting. I also love to create things from nature." The artist's pieces include the famous guinea fowl, a local African bird that is commonly seen in Zimbabwe, as well as hummingbirds and ornate leaf bowls. Mupindiko spent time in an artist community in Zimbabwe called Tengenenge, where he gained an appreciation for stonework in 1999. The community helped by teaching Passmore how to use the various tools necessary to create his wonderful works. He believes each piece of stone comes with a work of art already inside it. It is his



TOP: Appropriately titled *Family Unit*, Taurai Mutigwa's Opal Stone statue sits beautifully in the shade.
BOTTOM PIC: One of the jewels of the exhibit *Zulu Queen* by Tafadzwa Tandi, carved from Springstone. (Photo Courtesy of The Dallas Arboretum)

job, as the artist, to bring that image to light and to the viewers. Mupindiko's advice for aspiring artists is to continue to create and work on always making new pieces.

When speaking with Vivienne, it becomes apparent that her passion for Zimbabwean art and artists is as strong as her love for the country

itself. Shared economics is a palpable theme as Croisette explained that each artist sets his or her own pricing. Depending on the type of stone used, time it takes to complete, and techniques used, prices range across the board. Visitors can find something for everyone whether in the exhibit itself or in Marketplace. Working in tandem with artists ensures a mutually beneficial relationship that results in the ability for artists to share their work all over the world.

Both visiting artists spoke of the economy in Zimbabwe as a deterrent for selling their art locally. Because the economy in Zimbabwe does not currently allow for disposable income, many artists must rely on avenues outside the country to have their work seen. Vivienne and Joseph Croisette continue to make it their mission to bring the 250 artists they work with to an international stage. A map is available for each guest to study, complete with a list of all of the artists whose work is on display.

We encourage you to visit The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden before July 31st to take in all that ZimSculpt has to offer. *The DW* will be giving away complimentary tickets to the garden on our Facebook and Twitter pages as well as by listening to www.dallasweeklyonair.com

