



During the 17 years Leonardo da Vinci worked on his plans for the colossal horse, he made many small sketches. Although none of the drawings reveal the horse's final position, Akamu studied da Vinci's thoughts on anatomy and art, as well as other visual and literary sources to determine the best interpretation of the 500-year-old project.

“Who would ever say, ‘We know you can do this 24-foot sculpture?’ How would they know? How would I know? I had never even done an eight-foot one.”

one. But I really didn't have any doubt.”

Bogged down by the da Vinci organization's constraints of time, politics, and finances, she found in Meijer the support she needed to finish the project.

“Nina puts her love of horses and of history... in her art,” states Meijer. “The art represents the artist... For example, the Dent group proposed gold leaf. But (Nina) didn't want it. You couldn't see the muscle.”

With a \$2.5-million gift from Meijer, two bronzes of the 24-foot horse were cast. The twin of *The American Horse* was delivered to Milan, Italy, in 1999 — the culmination of the dreams of many.



Akamu created *Pegasus*, a tribute to a small Anglo-Arab stallion, when she lived in Piesanto, Italy.