

# The Montclairion

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## Sculpture featured in Oakland Zoo exhibit

By Sean Yokomizo

Local artist Amana Johnson was on hand for the placement of her work, "Holding Tomorrow's Heart", at the Oakland Zoo's new African Savannah exhibit.

The massive 2-ton Zimbabwean springstone bears the likeness of an African medicine man embracing a child in a display of masculine nurturing behavior.

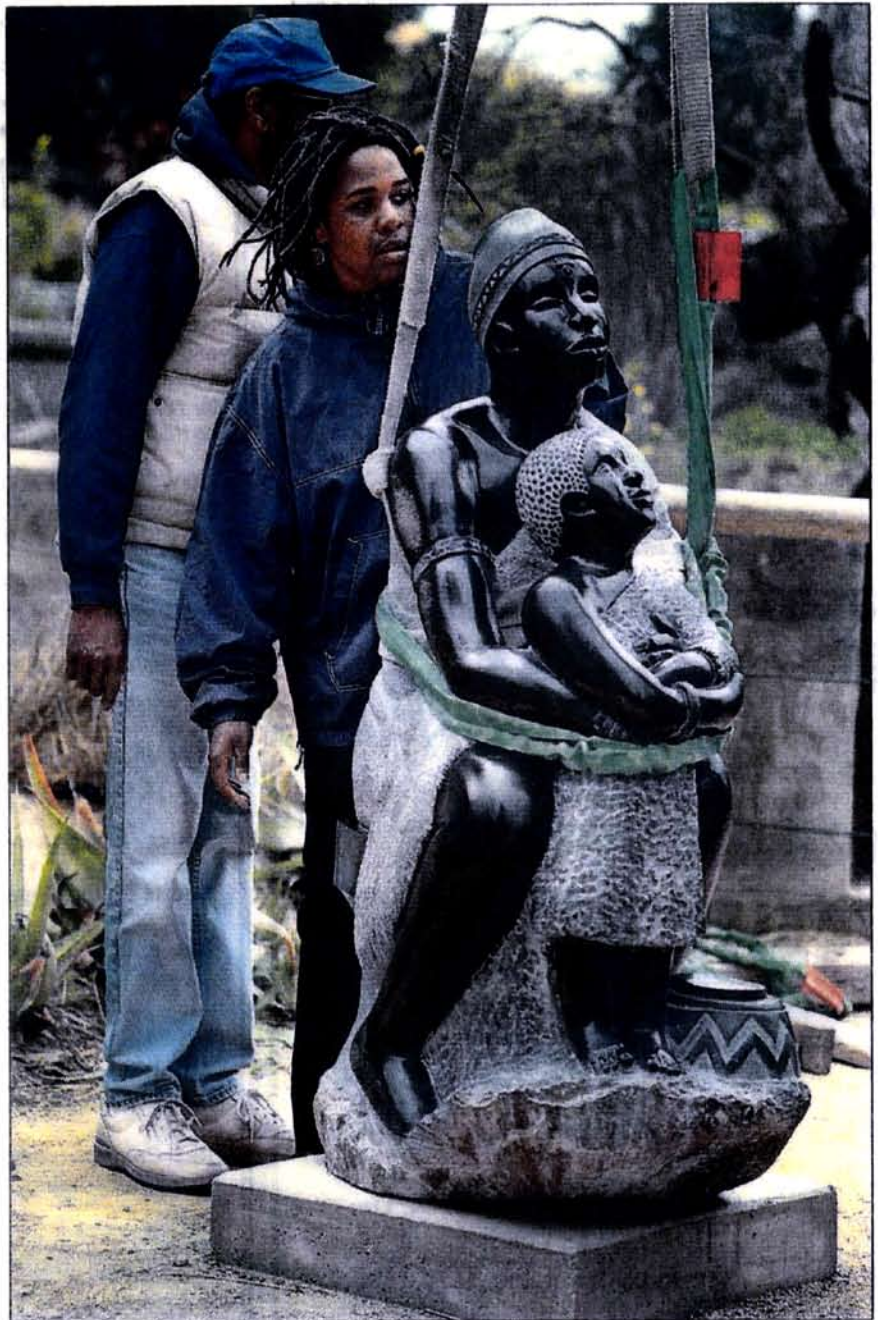
Johnson expresses through the sculpture an emphasis on the nurturing principles in the relationships between fathers, sons and brothers.

"I wanted to bring that focus back around to the masculine side," she said.

The unique stone is not only a genuine piece of the African Savannah, but its natural properties will ensure years of appreciation by zoo patrons.

"It is really very, very hard and will weather very well," Johnson says of the lustrous, ebony-colored stone.

The African Savannah exhibit is expected to open on Sunday, June 27.



JOANNA JHANDA

**AMANA JOHNSON**, a local artist, and Yusuf Al-Waajid (left) scrutinize the final placement of "Holding Tomorrow's Heart," a sculpture to enrich the Oakland Zoo's new African Savannah exhibit.