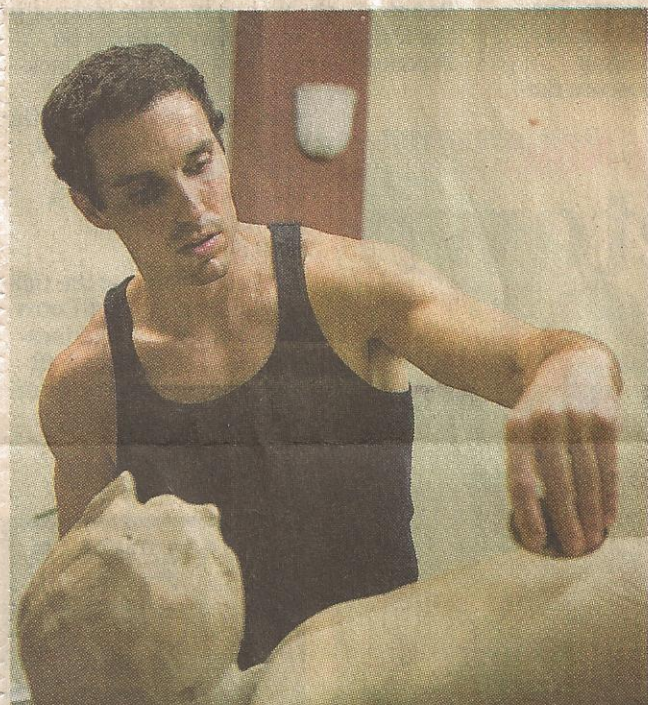




Ben Victor, the artist-in-residence at Northern State University in Aberdeen, multitasks as he works on his "Where Cultures Meet" sculpture at his studio at Northern State in August. Victor unveiled the sculpture at the California State University-Dominguez Hills Library on Monday and will unveil his monument to the oil workers today in Taft, Calif., also Victor's birthplace. American News Photos by Andrew Lamberson

Projects excite sculptor



Ben Victor's "Where Cultures Meet" sculpture used 10 NSU students and faculty members as models for the project.

Aberdeen man just unveiled latest work in California

BY ANDREW LAMBERSON
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In one of Aberdeen sculptor Ben Victor's newest works, 10 Northern State University students and faculty are enshrined forever in bronze.

Victor's "Where Cultures Meet" sculpture was unveiled on Monday at California State University-Dominguez Hills Library in Carson, Calif. The sculpture was commissioned by the Picture Art Foundation.

A second unveiling in Taft, Calif., Victor's birthplace, will feature a monument to the town's oil workers and oil-rich history. The oil workers

different races in a globe. Victor said 10 Northern State University students and faculty were used as models for the project. The globe contains the most figures in any sculpture Victor has completed. It weighs 10,000 pounds and is 15 feet high.

The oil workers sculpture features three, 8-foot-tall figures and a 40-foot oil rig.

"This is a lot of work, but it's really exciting," Victor said.

Victor started work on "Where Cultures Meet" in February, and the oil workers has been an ongoing commissioned project.

Victor is the artist-in-residence at Northern State. The students whose likenesses were used are Katrina Umanah and Rene Gettings, Africa; Professor Ricardo Rojas, Latin America; Mike Larson and Audra Schmidt, Europe; Won Jin, Asia; Missy Nguyen, Alaska native; Soni Markanda, India; and Kaili Aiono, Polynesia. Danielle