



EVA STANLEY

Resides: Loveland, Colorado
b. 1954, Chicago, USA

The Swimming Lesson

American alligators

Bronze

9 x 37 x 22.5

Alligators' silent armored presence fascinates me. Two species exist—the American alligator of Southeastern U.S., and the rare Chinese alligator (Yangtse River). With 21 other species of crocodiles, gharials, and caiman, they are the last living close dinosaur relatives, appearing 250 million years ago, during the Triassic period. Species we see today have changed little over 65 million years.

Hatchling alligators (six to eight inches) are vulnerable to raccoons, snakes, herons, egrets, otters, osprey, large fish—even other alligators. With unparalleled behavior for the reptile world, their momma protects them for 1-2 years! I had to capture this tender time in sculpture!