

ABEL MAKUWISE



“I love the colours of the stone and the strength of my community”

(b) 1982, Nyanga, Zimbabwe

Abel Makuwise comes from a family of sculptors in the beautiful mountainous region of Nyanga in Eastern Zimbabwe. His older brother Kufa had the most profound influence on his work, but his mentor was the Nyanga-based internationally renowned sculptor Harry Chingono. As with many families in this rural area, Abel’s family struggled to send all of their children to school, and so he left school at an early age to pursue a full-time career in sculpting. Together with his brother Peter he joined the artists’ co-operative at the Nyanga Arts Centre.

Abel Makuwise renders what he describes as the spirits of angels, but these are not light, ephemeral creatures. Instead they are rooted quite firmly and solidly in stone, the broad sweep of a wing covering an emerging face or figure. Abel uses Nyanga Serpentine for its colour and brilliance. One of the characteristics of his sculptures is the way he sculpts the feathers in the wings of his angel figures, etched so that they intersect in a perfect pattern. His works have been exhibited and sold in South Africa, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.