

ANDAMIYO CHIHOTA



“The eyes express what lies inside”

(b) 1976, Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

A shy, self-effacing man, Andamiyo Chihota’s natural talent is complemented by the care he takes in his choice of stone, his attention to detail and the perfection he seeks in finishing his sculptures. He started sculpting at age 13 while still attending school in Guruve under the watchful eye of his father Luke Chihota. After he completed his schooling, he began a formal apprenticeship with his cousin Edronce Rukodzi, an established Second Generation sculptor with an international reputation. Initially Andamiyo joined the Tengenenge Art Colony, but later relocated to Harare where he now displays his work at the Chitungwiza Art Centre and works at his home studio.

In 2002 Andamiyo was invited to exhibit his works at a solo show at Sankt Andreasberg where he also held sculpture workshops, and he was the artist in residence in 2006 at the Rice Lake Gallery outside Toronto. He has also participated in a number of group exhibitions of Shona sculpture, notably at the Museum of Fine Arts in San Diego, California.

Andamiyo Chihota strives to achieve balance and perfection in his sculptures. One of the most distinctive features of his recent work are his eyes, beautifully etched out of the stone. Serpentine and Springstone are his preferred stones, and he carefully chooses what he will use, looking first at the colour, and then at the structure to make sure there are no cracks or flaws. He prefers subject matter that reflects family values and Shona tradition, but he also sculpts a range of bird and cat forms. His works have an innate sense of balance and peace, radiating harmony.