

ARTHUR MANYENGEDZO



“I put my dreams into my art and try to sculpt the shadows in the world”

(b) 23.04.1977, Masvingo, Zimbabwe

Arthur Manyengedzo found inspiration in the clay pots he used to craft as a small boy growing up in Masvingo. He moved on to small figurines of clay animals and then, in his teens, took up sculpting as an apprentice with Locardia Ndandarika, the wife of the late Joseph Ndandarika, one of the founding fathers of the Shona sculpture movement. After a year, he moved to the Chapungu Gallery in Harare where he sculpted side by side with Dino Baradza and Ignatius Zhuwakiyi who served as his mentors. He is now living and working at the Chitungwiza Art Centre, near the capital Harare.

At first Arthur sculpted only figures, born out of love of his wife, but then he moved into the world of the abstract which he says he finds a perfect medium to channel his thoughts and energies. Arthur Manyengedzo describes the feeling he pours into his sculptures as a “kind of calling”, but then he also draws on his imagination, especially as it relates to his images of water spirits rising from a river or the sea.

His shapes have an incredible natural cadence, belying the heaviness of the stone, and always seem to be spiralling upwards towards the sky.

His preferred medium is Springstone, but he also enjoys Green Opal and prides himself on finishing his artworks with a degree of precision and polish that is rare among contemporary Zimbabwean stone sculptors.

Arthur was the 2008 artist-in-residence at the Rice Lake sculpture gallery outside Toronto, and the featured artist at RWAVHI's Johannesburg Gallery exhibition 'FACES' in 2016.