

CHARLES NEMBAWARE



“My philosophy is ‘no worry, no cry’. As Rastas we share our ideas, our worries and our resources.”

(b) 15.10.1969 Rusape, Zimbabwe

Charles Nembaware was born into a family of 10 children. Today he lives and works with his 2 brothers-in-law, twins Test and Tarzan Sithole in Tafara township outside of Harare. They are all Rastafarians and believe that living and working together in the closely-knit Svikiro group, they will ultimately succeed.

Charles completed his O-levels at the Alan Wilson High School in Harare in 1989, and inspired by the sculptures of Nicholas Mukomberanwa and Bernard Matemera, he decided to take up sculpting in 1996. At first he began experimenting with wood, and then moved to stone, evolving his own unique style.

By the time he was 26, Charles was sculpting full-time, drawing on Shona culture for inspiration. He has sold works to collectors and galleries in Europe and the United States, and is now attracting interest from buyers from Korea and South Africa.

Whether working in Springstone, Opal, Serpentine or Limestone, Charles’ distinctive sculptures all have a particular story to tell. He loves delving into his tradition for inspiration before translating that into a modern abstract form.

His themes, he says, are universal, and he believes that no matter what we do in life, it is always important to listen to the voices of the ancestors, regardless of where we come from.