

DAVID CHIKUZENI



(b) 1976, Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

David began his sculpting career at 12 years old under the guidance of First Generation master Albert Nathan Mamvura. He remained an apprentice with Mamvura for 6 years before joining Sylvester Mubayi, also a prominent First Generation sculptor for a further year's training.

He then went on to become one of the founder members of the Chitungwiza Arts Centre where he still holds a position as the Sales Manager, representing the interests of some 100 artists at the Centre. Although his responsibilities as a representative of the artists at Chitungwiza means that he has less time for his own sculpting, he is nonetheless enthusiastic about his chosen career. "I do it for the love of art" he says.

David Chikuzeni's sculptures have been showcased nationally at the Zimbabwe Heritage exhibitions in 1990, 1992 and 1996. In 2006 he was commissioned to sculpt a monumental memorial piece titled "Peace of Mind" in commemoration of a prominent Cincinnati doctor. David enjoys experimenting in both abstract and figurative forms, concentrating his efforts on depicting the human condition. He prefers the harder Serpentine, like Springstone and Fruit Serpentine simply because these are stones that are likely to endure and stand the test of time.

The themes of David's sculptures are also universal, human emotions, relationships, the place of humans in nature, and animals in the world. His style is reminiscent of Cubism, but his use of negative and positive space extends beyond this, with reference to the world of the ancestors. The hollowed-out parts of a sculpture are often used by Shona artists to represent openings to the spirit world.