

GODFREY MATANGIRE



“Only certain people can sculpt. You do have to be talented”

(b) 5.03. 1975, Hwedza, Zimbabwe

Godfrey Matangira grew up under the watchful eye of his grandmother who cared for him in Buhera until he was 13 years old.

From an early age Godfrey describes himself as a multimedia artist. “When I was at home I used to sketch my ideas on paper. Then I would translate that into an art work.”

It was some time before Godfrey turned his hand to stone. In 1998, at the age of 23 he began an apprenticeship with Nicholas Mukomberanwa, one of the great 1st Generation stone sculptors of Zimbabwe. “ I stayed with him as an apprentice for 4 years and then I worked with my relative Nesbert Masunde from 2002 until 2006.”

It was only at the age of 30 that Godfrey was ready to spread his wings and go it alone. Although his sculptures bear some of the hallmarks of his mentors, he describes his personal style as “Abstract, but strongly influenced by human behaviour and nature”.

Godfrey has been living in Chitungwiza, showcasing his work at the Artist Centre, for more than a decade.

Although Springstone is Godfrey’s first stone of choice, he also uses Opal and harder rocks, like Leopard Rock. Only more experienced sculptors will tackle Leopard Rock as it is extremely hard and difficult to work, requiring diamond-tipped tools.

Godfrey’s sculpting style is best described as fluid. He has the capacity to switch styles at will and specializes in depicting his subjects from an unusual vantage point adopting a truly 3-dimensional approach to sculpting. As a result his sculptures offer fresh viewing perspectives from every angle.