

GOODSON MLERA



“I follow the form of the stone to uncover the beauty within it”

(b) 17.04.1988, Harare, Zimbabwe

Like many emerging artists in Zimbabwe today, Goodson Mlera is not Shona. His family originally comes from Malawi, but he was born in Tafara, on the outskirts of the capital Harare, Zimbabwe. While still at school he showed some proficiency in drawing, and was greatly inspired by the sculptures of First Generation artist Luxon Gutsa. At age 11 he began an apprenticeship with the internationally acclaimed Sephani brothers, Patrick and Jim, who lived and worked in Tafara, but he did this in his spare time, remaining in school to get his O-levels.

After leaving school in 2005, Goodson took up sculpting full-time under the tutelage of Patrick and Jim, and developed a particular feel for sculpting torsos in the organic style that Jim Sephani perfected.

Since Jim Sephani's retirement however, Goodson's solo career has taken off. He was selected to showcase his work in Bordeaux, south of France in 2017. Since this first international exhibition, he has been back to France several times as an artist in residence and his sculptures are now receiving international exposure and acclaim.

Goodson Mlera prefers harder more resilient stone, like Springstone, Verdite and some Opals, because they are not prone to flaws or cracking. His sculptures revolve around themes of parenthood, innocence, protection and love, but his style is increasingly contemporary and less traditional.

Rwavhi has represented Goodson Mlera since 2009.