

## JAY MARIGA



“I may live and work in an urban environment, but my ties to my rural home, to nature, remain strong. It is the source of my inspiration”

(b) 1980 Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe

Jay Mariga is the last-born son of the first wife of the late Joram Mariga, widely considered the fore-father of the modern stone sculpture movement in Zimbabwe. It is Joram Mariga who is widely credited with resuscitating the art of stone sculpture in the 1950's. He taught all of his children only to use the very hardest of stones. In that way, he told them, their art would endure forever.

Jay grew up in a family which had great respect for Shona traditions and customs. His interest in stone sculpting was sparked as a young boy, but it was not until completing high school in 1998 that he decided to pursue an artistic career.

“I like to work both realistically and in abstract,” Jay explains. “My father was an important influence on me but I have never tried to imitate his style.”

Being surrounded by art from an early age, Jay believes that he developed an “artistic eye” and an instinctive response to stone.

Jay's sculptures have been exhibited at the Chapungu Sculpture Park and several other galleries in Harare. He has sold his work to galleries and collectors in Germany, Holland, the US, UK, South Africa and Canada.

He is married and currently works part-time alongside his older brother Walter in their studio in Greendale, Harare.