

## JOSEPH CHIGANGAIDZE



“Art is part of my daily diet. I love it”

(b) 4.04.1971 Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

Joseph Chigangaidze works alone, in his homestead in the Mudhindo Valley, with the sweep of the countryside around him. Perhaps that’s why he chooses as his subject matter the natural forms of animals, duikers, deer, elephants, birds and fish that he observes as part of his daily life. “I’m trying to avoid the copy-cats, that’s why I sculpt at home and not with the other artists in the centre”, he explains.

Joseph started sculpting in 1987, tutored by his older brother Michael Chigangaidze and exhibited his work for the first time in 1993 at the Chapungu Gallery in Harare. As a result of this exposure, his work was purchased by collectors and dealers from Germany, the Netherlands, United States and New Zealand.

Since returning to his rural home in Guruve, Joseph has not only become highly prolific, but is also training his younger brother Passmore, and his 4-year old daughter Wayne, a precocious toddler.

Richly coloured Serpentine stones and the finely chiselled detailed surface work are characteristic of Joseph Chigangaidze’s sculptures. The animal and bird forms are well-observed and Joseph likes depicting the behaviour of the creatures he sculpts, whether in repose, or engaged in ordinary tasks.

One of the marked features of Chigangaidze’s work are his clean almost stylised lines. As a scholar he enjoyed art, and particularly drawing which carries through to his sculptural style.