

## LACKNOS CHINGWARO



“I am a shy person. I like to sit quietly observing the world around me, which is why I sculpt birds”

(b) 02.1980 Mukaera , Zimbabwe

Lacknos Chingwaro’s main ambition as a schoolboy was to be a world famous soccer player. But it was not to be. When his father fell ill, what had been a hobby from the age of 12, became his full-time passion. Sculpting. He comes from a family of accomplished artists in the Guruve region so there was no shortage of mentors and tutors. Not to mention the rich reservoir of Serpentine stones in this part of Mashonaland. In 1994 Lacknos joined the artist community at Tengenenge, and conducted workshops in the village, both for visitors and also for resident sculptors.

However when the economic situation in Zimbabwe started to deteriorate, and Tengenenge lost business, Lacknos decided to return to Mukaera where he stayed at home sculpting until early 2010 when he returned to Harare to sell his work at the artists collective on Airport Road.

As a quiet, deeply religious , and reserved individual, Lacknos usually lets his sculptures do the talking for him when it comes to marketing and selling. His works are extremely popular in Europe, notably in Germany and Holland.

Lacknos Chingwaro is equally adept sculpting in softer Opal Serpentine stone as he is in harder Springstone. His style is elegant and classical. Birds in repose, or birds captured in flight, freeze-framed and cast into stone. Birds also have a great deal of symbolism in Shona culture, as foretellers of rain, harbingers of bad tidings, and in the case of Chapungu, the Bateleur eagle, as a medium between the living and the dead.