

NABOTH CHANDIRINGA



“I cannot have an opinion about the outcome of the carving, but must follow the inspiration that the individual piece of stone offers”

(b) 25.12.1964 Nyanga, Zimbabwe

Naboth Chandiringa started carving stone as a hobby while working for a Textile Company in Chitungwiza, outside Harare in 1989. He said after carving for 2 years he realised he wanted to sculpt full-time, and had both the talent and passion to make it his life's work.

“ My inspiration was stirred by artists like Joram Mariga and Maxwell Chidora, and I received considerable tuition from Mariga since we stayed in the same area”.

Naboth also had the benefit of a formal art training at the Paterson Art Centre in Harare, and once he had decided to sculpt full time, he returned to his home town of Nyanga where some of the most beautiful stones in Zimbabwe are located.

Naboth's distinctive sculptures in Black Serpentine, often of mythical bird forms have found a home in galleries in the United States, Canada and Europe, and several of his pieces are in the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Mutare.

The dense black stone and glistening sheen that is so characteristic of Black Serpentine, which is sourced in the Nyanga Mountains, is Naboth Chandiringa's preferred medium. Shona mythology, biblical stories and the beauty of the mountains encircling his home is what inspires Naboth. His style fuses the spirituality of First generation sculptors and the more contemporary approach to sculpting embraced by Third Generation artists.