

NGONI MASHAYA



“Shona culture is really what inspires me. My art is distinguished by the way I sculpt eyes and hands”

(b) 4.10.1977, Nyanga, Zimbabwe

Ngoni Mashaya is one of an extended family of stone sculptors who all now work in Harare although their rural home is in the mountains of Nyanga, eastern Zimbabwe. He completed his schooling at Avila Missionary School where he excelled in art and craft, so the transition to stone sculpting was a natural progression.

His first mentors were his brothers Precious and Tinei who not only showed him how to use the tools of his trade, but also taught him the art of appreciating the abstract. His brothers invited him to join them at their studio on Harare in 1990.

As a result of this exposure, he has sold work to collectors in the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, Holland and Australia.

Ngoni Mashaya feels sculpting is in his blood. Why else would so many of his brothers and cousins have found their creative gifts lay in stone. In the midst of such a prolific group of artists, it must also have been difficult for Ngoni to pursue his own style.

However his preferred choice of Cobalt and Opal stones, and the way he uses light and shadow within the stone makes it easy to recognise an Ngoni Mashaya sculpture.