

## PETER MAKUWISE



“Capturing grace of expression, of movement, in my sculptures gives me great pleasure”

(b) 1979, Nyanga, Zimbabwe

Peter Makuwise was mentored by his older brother Kufa and inspired by the Nyanga-based master sculptor Harry Chingono who had a great reverence for the natural beauty of the Nyanga region.

Peter completed primary school, but because of financial constraints, and as the 8th born child in a family of nine, he was forced to leave school to seek employment. Initially he helped his sister at her hair saloon, designing hair-styles, and then he began his sculpting career in 1997 with the ambitious aim of developing an international reputation. Together with his younger brother Abel, he joined the artists’ co-operative at the Nyanga Arts Centre.

He won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the Young Sculptor Exhibition at the National Gallery in Mutare and over the years he has sold works to collectors in Holland, Germany, the United States, Canada and South Africa.

“My favourite stone is Green Opal”, proclaims Peter, but he is equally adept at utilising the best of the natural colours of Nyanga Serpentine and Golden Serpentine to make his sculptures of the birds around Nyanga , and his portraits, come alive in stone.

Many sculptors are surprised at the colour the stone yields when it is polished, as it is difficult to fathom exactly how the strands of colour run in raw stone. Peter has an uncanny ability to draw out and highlight the flashes of colour in the stone, depicting the flurry of movement of an eagle landing or animating a study of a human face.