

## SIMON CHIDHARARA



“My sculptures are a social commentary on what I see around me, daily living...the trials, tribulations and joys of being alive”

(b) 21.12.1980, Mutare, Zimbabwe

Simon Chidharara never wanted to be a sculptor, he wanted a white collar job in a clean office. His older brother Kenneth was the first in the family to take up sculpting, and Simon, at age 11, would help his older brother finishing and polishing his sculptures.

It was a natural apprenticeship in mastering the art of carving. By the time Simon finished his O-levels he was ready to launch his own sculpting career. “Any subject interests me” he says, “I like to find out more about what makes us do the things we do, and why we feel the way we feel”.

Simon was one of the founder members of the Nyanga Arts Centre, an artists’ collective in the village of Nyanga. He has participated in a number of group exhibitions in the National Gallery in Mutare and his work has been bought by private collectors and galleries in Holland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and South Africa. Since 2008 he has been living and working in Chitungwiza, a high density town outside of Harare, showcasing his works at the Chitungwiza Art Centre.

In stylistic terms, Simon likes to blend the old with the new , which often combines representations of the spirits of his female ancestors with modern themes. He still prefers using Serpentine stone sourced in the Nyanga mountains for its multi-varied colours, and his sculptures evoke a particular mood or emotion. He is a highly talented Third Generation artist who enjoys experimenting with the stone and the contrasts of the raw with polished or highly textured stone