

## SINGI CHIHOTA



“ I wanted to be an artist and a truck driver. Instead I became a sculptor”

(b) 3.06.1975 Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

Singi Chihota liked big trucks from the time he was 10 years old, but his ambition to drive them was never realised. At age 12 he started sculpting under the guidance of his father Luke who taught him that all good things come to those with patience.

As a result Singi approaches his sculpting with great patience and care, from the choice of stone through the carving process of good poaching, chasing, hammering, shaving and finishing. His natural talents were enhanced during the 7 year period he spent with his cousin Edronce Rukodzi, an internationally acclaimed sculptor.

In 1996 he was appointed supervisor at Rukodzi’s studio, helping in turn to mentor younger artists. His work was selected for exhibition at the Mobil Anglo American Zimbabwe Heritage shows in 1994 and in 1998. He also had a permanent stand at the Harare International Airport during this period.

Initially he marketed his work through the Tenengege Art Community, but then started working together with his brother Andamiyo and 2 cousins from their home studio in Chitungwiza, outside Harare. He has sold his work to collectors and galleries in Germany, Holland, the United States, South Africa and Canada. He has participated in group exhibitions hosted by the Museum of Fine Arts in San Diego, California (1997/8) and the Fen Bank of Atlanta (1995).

Singi Chihota draws inspiration from the Shona spirit world as well as his natural environment. He likes the hardness of Springstone, but also finds pleasure exploiting the colour and rich range of texture to be found in the Serpentine stones mined near his rural home in Guruve where he often goes to source material with his brother Andamiyo.

His style ranges from an acute observation of both human and animal behaviour to more dynamic sculptures conveying lively expression.