

STANLEY MUTANGA



“Mostly it’s what I see in the stone itself that inspires me, it’s like a face looking out at me”

(b) 27.01. 1977, Mtoko, Zimbabwe

Stanley Mutanga grew up in the rural area of Mtoko before moving to Tafara on the outskirts of Harare as a teenager. He completed his schooling at Tafara High at the age of 17 and started sculpting under the tutelage of Sam Mabeu, a successful local sculptor. He describes Sam as “one of the best teachers I ever had”.

After his apprenticeship with Sam, Stanley worked with Charles Nembaware, a member of the Svikiro group of sculptors in Tafara. Since 2004 he has been sculpting alone, but exhibits his works at the Svikiro outdoor studio, which means that gallerists and buyers compare his works with some of the finest art being produced in Zimbabwe.

The Svikiro group are highly professional and prolific sculptors who enjoy international exposure, so Stanley has sold sculptures to buyers from the United States, Germany and South Africa. He has also received acclaim from the National Gallery of Zimbabwe.

“I use drawing to map the stone, but I’m not very good at it” admits Stanley. Although he is willing to take direction and advice from his older, more experienced mentors, he is already rapidly developing his own distinctive style. It embraces a sharper design feel, especially in his figures and faces.

His preferred stones are Cobalt and Springstone. Stanley loves experimenting with the contrast between the dense stone and negative space, the polished and the raw, sharp and roughly hewn edges.