

TAPIWA GORERINO



“There is nothing worse in the world than hiding your feelings. And so I bring out those feelings in my sculptures, they are like the wind, the earth, fire...they cannot be stopped”

(b) 2.9. 1972 Chegutu, Zimbabwe (d) 8.2010

Tapiwa Gorerino's instinctive desire as a small boy to create did not find favour with his family. His father would beat him whenever he found Tapiwa making figures out of clay and wire. It was a teacher at primary school in Chitungwiza, outside Harare, who encouraged him in these early efforts, so he would hide his creations under his bed.

When he completed secondary school in 1990, he had developed a passion for nature and often spent his weekends exploring the countryside and rocky outcrops around Chitungwiza. When his family moved back to Guruve, an area which has a strong tradition of stone sculpting, he at first channelled his energies into a newly developed welding business.

He also spent time at his uncle, Edronce Rukodzi's studio, and after a while, started an apprenticeship with the internationally established sculptor. After a few years spent learning the skill, he approached the Tengenenge Art Centre to help him market his sculptures and instantly found favour with international art buyers.

In 1998 he received a Merit Award from the World Art Foundation in Holland and has subsequently exhibited and held sculpting workshops in Holland and Belgium. He survived a tragic car crash in which his brother died, and subsequently moved to the family home in Guruve.

Tapiwa Gorerino's sculptures are small but beautifully formed. Whether it is in the finely observed detail of a leaf, or the depiction of a joyous dancer, they exude a sense of natural balance and harmony.

Tapiwa loves to sculpt women in all their forms, and his sculpted figures frequently stretch their heads upwards to kiss the sky. In his eyes women have an affinity to mother earth and are rooted in the stone itself from which his figures find expression.