

TAWANDA RUPFUTSE



“I sculpt women because they are soft and loving. I carve directly into the stone because I cannot draw”

(b) 7.5. 1984, Nyanga, Zimbabwe

Tawanda Rupfutse grew up in the mountainous region of Nyanga in eastern Zimbabwe, but moved to Harare to apprentice with his mentor, Tonderai Mashaya in Zimre Park. He left school after completing Form 4, and immediately joined Tonderai at his small home-based studio. He is greatly inspired by Dominic Benhura, one of the most successful Second Generation Zimbabwean sculptors and aims to become like him in his life and work. He also has a passion for soccer in general, and Manchester United in particular.

He has greatly benefitted from his association with Tonderai, and as a result he has successfully sold his work to private dealers and collectors in Canada, Holland, Germany and South Africa.

Tawanda Rupfutse is emerging as one of the most exciting new generation sculptors working in Harare. His style, although similar in many ways to that of his mentor Tonderai Mashaya, is rapidly evolving, and he is starting to experiment with his sculptures of human figures and small heads. While many of the pieces have a serene, contemplative quality, with flowing lines and curves, there is also a hint of energy and passion.

Tawanda likes working in Lemon Opal both because of its unique colour and the hardness of the stone