

## THOMAS CHIKWIRAMAKOMO



“The stone we find here in Nyanga is very special and it gives me a lot of inspiration”

(b) 1980, Nyanga, Zimbabwe

Thomas Chikwiramakomo schooled at Mazarura Secondary School in Nyanga where his favourite subjects were art and craft. By the time he left school in 2000, he had already started learning the skills of sculpting from his older brother Kenneth.

As the last born child in a family of seven, Thomas has always been attracted to the colour and texture of the stone in Nyanga, which he regards as a gift to sculptors. For the past 7 years he has been pursuing his own particular style, after serving his apprenticeship with Kenneth, and he now also works with other artists at the Nyanga Arts Centre – an artists’ co-operative on the outskirts of the village.

Not many art dealers venture out to Nyanga, especially in recent years when sourcing sufficient supplies of fuel has become a problem in Zimbabwe. Nonetheless Thomas has sold his sculptures to collectors and galleries in the United States, South Africa, Germany and Canada

Thomas Chikwiramakomo is passionate about his art and although a quiet and intense artist, his work speaks volumes. There is a compelling blend of the mystical, animal and human in his sculptures, and he says he is profoundly influenced by the Shona culture of ancestor worship. His favourite stones are Black Serpentine, Opal and the green densely textured Nyanga Serpentine.