

DAVID GOPITO



“The sculptures spring from my mind. When I have a feeling I have to convey it through the stone”

(b) 2.09.1946 - 2008 Mutare, Zimbabwe

David Gopito saw the re-birth of the stone sculpting movement in Zimbabwe while still a schoolboy at St. Welbecks School in Mutare. He left school after completing Standard 6 and started his career as an apprentice to his brother John Gwitirwa who was a wood and stone carver in Mutare.

In 1970, he went to Victoria Falls and joined the Forest Craft Village there before he made the transition to full-time stone sculpting and moved to Harare. For many years he lived and worked at his home studio in Chitungwiza, preferring the harder stones such as Fruit Serpentine, Verdite and Golden Serpentine. “I like the human form, the family, lovers and the emotions that pass between human beings” he explained.

David exhibited his sculptures widely, including at the Frankfurt Art Fair in Germany in 1984 and in group exhibitions in Australia, California and the United Kingdom.

David Gopito’s sculptures are extremely tactile, they almost glow from within because of the time and care he took finishing and polishing his works which are organic and fluid in composition. Although he did sculpt on a large scale, with the economic collapse in Zimbabwe, David scaled down during his latter years, producing beautiful evocative smaller pieces rendering abstract emotions such as the relationship between a mother and a newly born child, or the growth of a foetus. David Gopito died in Chitungwiza in 2008.