



ANDAMIYO CHIHOTA

HARARE

Artist-in-Residence

Shona D'Afrique II, Beaconsfield, 2006
and Rice Lake VII, 2006

Andamiyo Chihota was born in 1976 in Chitungwiza. His family later moved to Guruve, a rural region with a rich stone-sculpting tradition, where he started carving at the age of 13. He attributes his father, Luke Chihota, with sparking and nurturing his talent. After he completed school Andamiyo began an apprenticeship with his cousin Edronce Rukodzi (an internationally acclaimed sculptor) who introduced him to the Tengenenge Art Colony. By the age of 17 he was carving full time.

Andamiyo finds inspiration from a number of sources and has become most well known for his birds and his depictions of the Shona people. "My sculptures show my respect for the African wildlife and for the cultural values of the people," he explains. He selects his stone with great care, favouring the exceptionally beautiful fruit serpentine from one particular mine near Guruve.

All Andamiyo's distinctive sculptures bear his artistic signature – delicately decorated eyes. Eyes, he explains, express what is inside - as they look out on the world. His work is expressive, contemplative and beautifully crafted. He talks about finding the "balance" in a piece of stone and of the importance of detail in the finishing.

Although Andamiyo is still a member of the Tengenenge Art Colony, he has relocated to Harare in order to provide more exposure for his work. There he works alongside his older brother, Singi, and two cousins, in an urban outdoor studio.

In 2002 he was invited to Germany for a solo exhibition at Sankt Andreasberg, where he also gave sculpting workshops. He has participated in several major group shows of Shona sculpture most notably at the Museum of Fine Arts in San Diego, California. His sculptures have sold to collectors in Holland, Germany, Belgium, the UK the US and Canada.

ZimArt has represented Andamiyo in Canada since 2001.

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RICE LAKE
GALLERY