

## ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

### **AUTHUR MANYENGEDZO**

CHITUNGWIZA

ZIMART'S ARTIST-IN-  
RESIDENCE, 2008



Born in 1979 in Masvingo, Authur Manyengedzo developed an interest in the arts while still in primary school. He started by moulding clay animals and making clay pots, turning his hand to stone sculpting in his late teens.

As is the case with many Zimbabwean sculptors, Authur started by apprenticing with a senior artist – in his case Ronnie Dongo, son of Joseph Ndandarika who was one of the founders on the Shona sculpting movement. After a year of formal apprenticeship he started to work alongside other artists at the Chapungu Gallery in Harare. Authur says his most influential mentors were Ignatius Zhuwakiyi and Dino Baradza.

Authur prefers to work in a semi-abstract style and carves human figures, animals and birds. Sometimes, he explains, the ideas come from his own imagination when he looks at the raw stone, at others he has dreams which direct him. In the early days he struggled to buy tools and raw stone but through perseverance and the help of fellow artists he became one of the most successful artists at the Chitungwiza Arts Centre. In 2006 he left the Art Centre to work in a studio in Harare with his brother Arab.

In 2007 Authur's work was featured in an exhibition curated by ZimArt in Johannesburg. South African art critic, Charlene Smith, in reviewing the show for The Sunday Independent, described Authur's sculptures as "sinuous, sleek and stylized," and reminiscent of Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi (1876 –1957).

Authur's sculptures have been bought by galleries and collectors from the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Canada, Australia and Korea.

ZimArt has represented Authur in Canada since 2002.

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