

TUTANI MGABAZI**ZimArt's Artist-in-Residence:
2018**

Tutani Mgabazi was born in Guruve, Mashonaland Central in 1975. He enjoyed arts and crafts from the moment he started primary school and remembers visiting his uncle, Francis Mugavazi, a respected First Generation sculptor, during his school holidays.



Like many Zimbabwean sculptors his informal apprenticeship with his uncle started with sanding and polishing his uncle's sculptures. By the age of 12 Tutani was creating his own sculptures and his uncle would promote his work to visiting collectors. He admits that initially he imitated his uncle's style but as he became more confident he began to experiment and develop his own way of seeing and interpreting the stone. Tutani's father saw that his son had both talent and interest in sculpting and purchased his first set of tools for him when he was 13.

Before he had completed his secondary education Tutani's works had already been exhibited at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. In 1995 he moved to Mto-rashanga after discovering and registering a Springstone mine. Soon after that he created the Artist to Artist centre with the assistance of the late Jill Latham. Several years later he moved to Mvurwi to help establish an artist run cooperative known as the Mvurwi Arts Centre. Tutani now works from his nearby home studio and displays his sculptures at the Arts Centre along with other artists from the region.

Tutani has a diverse style alternating between abstract and representational. His striking contemporary sculptures have been featured in several international exhibitions including the Annual Sculpture Symposium in Germany in 2006 and 2015, and the Munhumutapa Art Gallery in Cape Town in 2003 and 2004.

Tutani is also a gifted teacher and has led stone sculpting workshops in Germany, South Africa and Oakland California.

His sculptures have sold to collectors and galleries in Europe, the UK, the US, South Africa and Canada.