

Artist-in-residence, Rice Lake VI,
Ontario, Canada, September 2005

WALTER MARIGA

HARARE

Walter Mariga's father, Joram, now deceased, is often described as "the father" of the Shona sculpture movement which began in the 1950s. Walter and his three younger brothers, Daniel, Jay and Aaron, all apprenticed with Joram and all continue to sculpt.

The Mariga family is originally from Nyanga, a beautiful mountainous region in the eastern region of Zimbabwe, near the Mozambique border. While Walter occasionally returns to this region to access the remarkable stone that's available in this area, he is based in Harare.

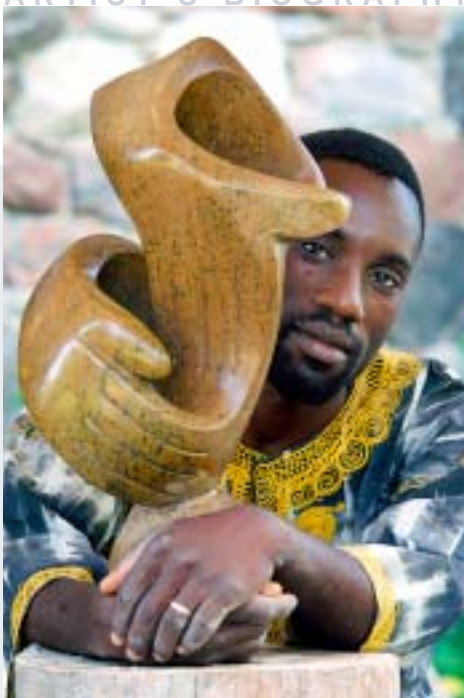


Photo by Kyle Griffin courtesy of Peterborough This Week

Walter, born in 1973, explains that there was no need for him to attend art school as his father was an exceptional mentor encouraging his sons to sculpt in the hardest stones from the outset. At around 12 years old he started "shaping stones" because he admired his father's work so much. They were not "real" sculptures, Walter explains, but he was learning to appreciate stone and handle tools. By the age of 17 he was carving full time.

Walter began exhibiting his work internationally through the Chapungu Sculpture Gallery at the age of 21. In 1994 he was chosen to participate in a sculpting workshop organized by the Japanese government. He worked alongside Japan's master sculptor Masaji Asaga, sculpting black granite.

He continues to work in the hardest, and often most colourful stones, depicting a range of subjects. Walter says each of his sculptures communicates a message – whether it's a comment on society, capturing a human emotion or celebrating nature.

Earlier this year Walter was invited to Holland to give sculpting workshops at Galerie de Porcherie.

Walter's work has been exhibited in the U.K. the U.S., Germany, Holland, Japan and Canada. ZimArt has represented Walter since 2001.

ZIM
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