

**Mavambo Artist Space**  
**Artist Biography**

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**1. Sabudo Jamali**

Born in December 1967 in Tafara, a high density suburb 20 km east of Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe, Sabudo's interest in art started when he was in primary school, one of his favourite classes was art. He never took art seriously until 1985 when he started drawing cartoons to pass the time. The education system in Zimbabwe concentrate more on encouraging academic subjects and practical subjects like art are not considered as important. In 1990 a Jesuit priest Father Brian McGarry based at Silveira House, a Catholic Development Centre noticed Sabudo's drawings, he was impressed and he commissioned him to do some cartoons for Social Change, a magazine looking at social and development issues. When he got some of his cartoons published, he was inspired and became more serious with his work. One thing led to another, his brother David Jamali was actively involved in the Catholic Church coordinating youth activities that included a youth sculptor's project. Sabudo became interested in stone sculpting and in 1987; he started sculpting on his own at a makeshift studio at home. His brother, David who was already sculpting part time, helped him master the basic skills of stone sculpting using hand tools. He mastered the skill quickly and the quality of his work developed and has become one of the best original abstract art pieces. Sabudo has maintained consistency in his work, despite the struggle to get a consistent market, supplies and tools.

Sabudo's work is influenced by Shona stone sculptures, which was popularized in the 1960's by big name first generation artists like Nicholas Mukomberanwa, Joram Mariga and Ndandarika and recently by second generation artists like Dominic Benhura, Amos Supuni, Joe Mutasa and Lameck Bonjisi It is this generation of artists that Sabudo belongs to, he has made a mark on the local and international market. Sabudo grew up in an impoverished community, his work captures moments of sorrow and joy within his community. His subjects range from poverty affecting his community, animals, moments of celebrations, HIV/AIDS issues to contemporary economic, social and cultural issues affecting his country. In 1996 he was awarded a certificate of excellence for best original work of art during a group exhibition at Tafara community centre by the Ministry of Education and Culture. He has participated in a number of group exhibitions from 1989 – 2005. Stone sculpting has become his passion, he sculpts full time and gives most of his time to train young artists who are confronted by a high unemployment rate in his community. More than 20 young artists have passed through his workshop and they now have their own backyard studios. Sabudo is the current Chairperson for Mavambo Artist Space, an initiative founded by David Jamali, his brother. Mavambo Artists Space is a community based initiative that brings artists together to share ideas, work together and develop strategies to cooperatively market their work and come up with a code of conduct to maintain standards and insure that the artist who produce their work signs their work. There have been a lot of cases of well established artists buying sculptures from upcoming artists and the established artists putting their signatures and claiming copyright on the work.

**Exhibitions held**

1. Group exhibition
2. Group exhibition
3. National heritage exhibition
4. Group exhibition
5. Group exhibition
6. National heritage exhibition
7. Group exhibition
8. Group exhibition
9. Group exhibition
10. Group exhibition

**Place/location**

- Ruwa Gallery, Harare, 1989
- Tafara, Harare, 1991
- National Gallery of Zimbabwe, 1995
- Tafara Community Centre, Harare, 1995
- ZimRights offices, Belvedere, 1996
- National Gallery of Zimbabwe, 1996
- New Africa House, Harare 1997
- Harare Gardens, 1998
- Guruuswa Gallery, Greendale, 1999
- Amsterdam Netherlands, 2000

Sold works to private galleries and collectors from Holland, USA, Germany, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, South Africa and local Zimbabwean collectors.

**Mavambo Artist Space  
Artist Biography****2. David Jamali**

My interest in art started when I was in school doing my primary education, 1976 – 1982. I have always been fascinated by the work of one of my neighbours, who was a stone sculptor. When I came back from school, I used to go and watch him work whenever I was not busy with my school work or helping with some work at home. I think the environment I grew up in had so much influence on me, in terms of landscape. There are so many balancing rocks and I used to see a lot of figures out of them and always imagined that they were sculptures waiting to be discovered. I did not attempt to do anything until 1987 when I completed my basic secondary education. I was a member of the Catholic Youth Association and with the help of two American nuns Maryknoll Sisters Janice and Kathryn we started a group of sculptors and the nuns hired an experienced and seasoned artist to give us lessons on sculpting. Since then I sculpted full time for, but due to insecure source of income, I decided to look for a job to earn some income which my family badly needed. I got a full time job in 1994 working for a human rights organization as field officer and in my spare time I began sculpting part time.

I like to work mostly in stone and at times use metal as a medium to express myself. I mainly work in different types of serpentine, springstone, dolomite, green and olive opal and granite at times. My art reflect what goes on around me, I believe art is a reflection of what one goes through in life. It is also a reflection of the spirit within us, the positive energy that flows from one being to the other, it is the ultimate language that is universal that one can relate to and identify with. I find myself expressing my inner and most intimate feelings in abstract form, mostly on the issues affecting my surroundings, my community, my country, issues affecting me as an individual and those around me. My art seeks to represent those who suffer in silence because of inequality, injustice, corrupt political systems, violence, HIV/AIDS. My art seeks to celebrate life, success, living in harmony, happiness. It seeks to raise consciousness on economic, social and political

issues and to advocate for change. Explosion of negative silence is how best I would describe my work. There are so many poor people in the community I grew up in Tafara; most of these people can not express themselves due to the repressive political and social system in my country. My art speaks about those people, my worries and joy.

#### **Exhibitions held**

1. Group exhibition
2. Group exhibition
3. National heritage exhibition
4. Group exhibition
5. Group exhibition
6. Solo exhibition
7. Solo exhibition
8. Group exhibition
9. Group exhibition
10. Solo exhibition
11. Solo exhibition

#### **Place/location**

- Silveira House, Harare, 1989
- Tafara, Harare, 1991
- National Gallery of Zimbabwe, 1995
- Tafara Community Centre, Harare, 1995
- ZimRights offices, Belvedere, 1996
- Selly Oak Colleges, Selly Oak, UK 1997
- New Africa House, Harare 1997
- Harare Gardens, 1998
- Guruuswa Gallery, Greendale, 1999
- LyghtsomeGallery, Antigonish, NS. Canada, 2000
- Quakers Friends House, Toronto, Canada, 2000

Sold works to private galleries and collectors from the UK, Holland, USA, Germany, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, South Africa and local Zimbabwean collectors.

### **Mavambo Artist Space**

#### **Artist Biography**

### **3. Nyahoda Jamali**

Nyahoda was born in June 1971, in Tafara, a high density suburb, 20 km east of Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe. Nyahoda started sculpting after going through his secondary education. Two of his brothers Sabudo and David were already sculpting. In 1990 he started as an assistant to both his brothers, in his own time he would take off cuts and sculpt small pieces. In 1995 he started sculpting full time after mastering and developing his own technique. His work comes from his experience living in a community that is impoverished. He says his inspiration comes from the work of his two brothers Sabudo and David. He sees sculpting as a way of self employment in a country that has an unemployment rate of over 60%. He believes that art is an important tool to maintain and preserve the local tradition. Nyahoda has strong beliefs in the spiritual world as this comes out in some of his work. He looks to stone sculpture as an expression of the moral strength of the customs and values of the Shona culture he grew up in and the similar values inherent in the beliefs of the longer traditions of the Christian church. He enjoys working in Springstone, Opal and different types of Serpentine stone.

#### **Exhibitions held**

1. Group exhibition
2. National heritage exhibition

#### **Place/location**

- ZimRights offices, Belvedere, 1996
- National Gallery of Zimbabwe, 1996

3. Group exhibition - New Africa House, Harare 1997
4. Group exhibition - Harare Gardens, 1998
5. Group exhibition - Guruswa Gallery, Greendale, 1999
6. Group exhibition - Amsterdam Netherlands, 2000
7. Auburn Art Depot - Hawthorn, Melbourne, 2005

Sold works to private galleries and collectors from Holland, USA, Germany, South Africa and local Zimbabwean collectors.

### **Mavambo Artist Space Artist Biography**

#### **4. Roy Chinete**

Roy was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 1982. He did his primary and secondary school in Tafara and Mabvuto. In 2001 he joined the Mavambo Artist Space as a trainee artist and assistant to Sabudo Jamali his mentor. After gaining confidence and experience, he started to sculpt his own pieces. He likes to explore movement in his work. His sculptures depict family life, love and the wisdom of the elders. Roy has participated in a few exhibitions and that has inspired him to continue working as a sculptor. He is a product of the Mavambo Artist Space a collective of Artists that came together to give each other support.

### **Mavambo Artist Space Artist Biography**

#### **5. Mabvuto Jamali**

Mabvuto is 28 years old and is a cousin to Sabudo, David and Nyahoda. He came to join Mavambo Artist Space in 1999 under the tutorship of David and Sabudo. He got exposed to sculpting by default because he used to visit his cousins and became interested. He is also involved in charity work, in a project that teaches visual art on a voluntary basis to the disabled at a local hospital in Harare. Mabvuto has shown great craftsmanship in his work and has won accolades from his work mates. Mabvuto has exhibited locally and has sold some of his work to collectors from the US, Europe and South Africa.

### **Mavambo Artist Space Artist Biography**

#### **6. Luke Jamali**

Luke is one of the youngest artists in the Mavambo Artist Project; he was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1983. After completing his secondary education and faced with the growing unemployment in his country he decided straight away to join the Mavambo Artist space.

Having grown up surrounded by brothers who are artists, Luke developed his talent at a very early age. He also developed a liking of music and can play the Mbira (local hand help piano) and drums very well. His passion was to attend music school and learn to play other conventional music instruments but because of lack of funds, he abandoned the idea for sculpting. He joined Mavambo Artists Space in 1999 as an assistant to his brother Sabudo, who provided the mentorship that saw him develop his own style of sculpting. He specializes in heads, and explores the different relationships between men and women, mothers and children. His work depicts some sense of humour because he feels that art must enlighten people's lives and not be too serious.

## **Mavambo Artist Space Artist Biography**

### **7. Jonathan Jamali**

Born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1979, Jonathan is a nephew to the Jamalis. He started his sculpting career in 1994 by helping with polishing his uncle Sabudo's sculptures. He is one of the founder members of Mavambo Artist Space. Jonathan's sculptures are a joy to look at. He believes that art has developed within him. He is inspired by nature and his surroundings. Jonathan's work has been exhibited locally and some of his work has been sold to galleries and collectors from abroad. Jonathan has participated in a few exchange programs with other artist locally. He believes that teaching others is the only way a community can start to develop its full potential. He is involved in helping younger artists that pass through the Mavambo Artist Space workshop.