

Mavambo Artists Space

(MAS)

Mavambo (The beginning/Genesis) Artists Space (MAS) provides support to a group of twenty young artists operating as a cooperative in Zimbabwe. The Chairperson Sabudo Jamali a community based Artist, has offered his house for use as a studio/working and meeting space in his community. The group works at a location near the capital city Harare in a high-density suburb. Mavambo Artists Space through the support of the founder David Jamali who is now based in Melbourne, Australia has provided a grant to this group to purchase stone, tools, and to upgrade their workspace. Mavambo Artists Space aims to provide loans to several individual stone sculptors mainly Aids orphans who have been trained through the project so they may purchase basic materials and keep working year-round.

Mavambo Artists Space aims to provide additional support to artists by purchasing their sculptures at fair prices and exporting them to the Western market for sale at different Galleries and on the Internet.

Zimbabwe means "House of Stone" and is the birthplace of the extraordinary stone sculpture created by people of the Shona tribe.

Today, the famous smooth carved stone figures have taken on a life of their own to fight poverty in Zimbabwe. Embroiled in chaos, the country is in a major political, economic and health crisis. Tourism has declined. Food production has been cut. The AIDS epidemic rages through the population.

Artists in particular are struggling to sell their sculptures to provide food for their families.

Mavambo Artists Space has stepped in to use the Zimbabwe stone sculptures as a weapon against poverty in the country.

Mavambo Artists Space is a community-based project by the artists and for the artists. All profits realised by the project goes back into community development and help to improve and preserve the original works of the artists. The project is a non-profit organization, which seeks to provide financing, technical assistance and other forms of support in order to foster and enhance the development of multi-ethnic communities and self-sustained local economies in developing and disrupted communities in Zimbabwe.