

DOMINIC BENHURA

Artist-in-residence, Rice Lake IV,
Ontario, Canada, September 2003

Benhura's work represents an important epoch in the genesis of Zimbabwean art whose interpretation, definition and development is still to be fully explored in the context of African cultural values and contemporary aesthetics." Zimbabwean Art Critic, Pikirirayi Deketeke

Born in 1968 in rural Mashonaland, Dominic Benhura began sculpting at the age of 12, mentored by Tapfuma Gutsa – an older cousin who was already an established artist. Four years later Dominic was dividing his time between his high-school studies and sculpting and was exhibiting his work in group shows in the country's capitol, Harare. His first public recognition came at the age of 18 when he won first prize at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe's Annual Schools Competition. Within four years he had been invited to show his work overseas at the Millesgarten Sculpture Park and Museum in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 1995 Benhura opened a studio in Harare where a group of accomplished sculptors work alongside new talent, sharing their expertise in an informal mentoring program. This interest in supporting artists in their development has made Dominic a popular teacher and he is frequently invited to run sculpting workshops at home, in the USA, and Europe.

Benhura continues to garner awards for his work and is considered to be one of the most collectable artists to emerge from this movement. Recent commissions include a life-size sculpture for the Nelson Mandela Children's



Foundation, and five monumental sculptures for the Kyung Am Sculpture Park and Museum in South Korea.

Selected exhibition highlights:

1990 Millesgarten Sculpture Park and Museum, Sweden
 1990 Yorkshire Sculpture Park, United Kingdom
 1992 Expo '92, Spain
 1992, 1993, 1994 Sculpture in the Park, Colorado, USA
 1992 Trinkhaus aus Burkhardt, Germany
 1992, 1995 Galerie im Schlossgarten, Germany
 1993 Stone Gallery, Holland
 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997 Chapungu Sculpture Park, Zimbabwe
 1994 Millfield Gallery, United Kingdom
 1995 Shona Sol Art Gallery, Sante Fe, USA
 1995, 1996 Westfalen Park, Germany
 1996 Kastel Henkenshage, Holland
 1996 Remise Academy, Denmark
 1996 Barbara Ackerman Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
 1999 Standard Bank Arts Festival, South Africa
 2000 Expo 2000, Germany
 2000 Kew Gardens, London, United Kingdom
 2001, 2002 Cornell Museum, Delray Beach, USA
 2001, 2002 Native Accents Gallery, Bridgehampton, USA
 2002 Munhumutapa Gallery, South Africa
 2002 Phoenix Botanical Gardens, USA
 2002 Zuva Gallery, Scottsdale, USA
 2002 Galerie Aachen, Germany
 2003 Artist-in-residence, Rice Lake IV, Bailieboro, Canada

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