



# Hugh Hatitye Mbayiwa

\*1973, Zimbabwe

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Hugh was born 4 May 1973 in Mhondoro, Chegutu District in Zimbabwe in a family of 7. It is while at Nyangwene Primary, that Hugh realized his artistic potential. Hugh was first awarded with a certificate of excellence in art courtesy of En-bee Stores in 1988. He impressed Fay Chung who was then the Minister of Education when he drew a portrait of her. Fay was visiting the school.

Hugh later went Rio Tinto Mhondoro High School, 1989–1992 for secondary. The school is also located at Mubayira Growth Point. It is then when Hugh became serious about pursuing art as a subject. There was no art lessons offered at rural secondary schools except a few schools in the province only located in towns. He also got help from German friends Kristin Diehl & Sven Adiek. In 1992 Hugh became the first pupil to successfully register and pass art at ordinary level in the history of the school. Now he was ready to fulfil his dream of becoming an artist.

1994–1995 Hugh was a student of the then B.A.T Visual Studios under the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Harare. He specialized in Fine Art Drawing, painting, printing as well as photography. He also did Advanced level Art during the same period. Hugh first exhibited as a student at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in 1995. Hugh then participated in several other exhibitions like the Young Artists of 1996–1998 at Gallery Delta. Hugh also exhibited at Verandah Gallery annual exhibitions for several years. He took part in several national exhibitions thereafter.

In 1999 Hugh went back to Mhondoro to voluntarily introduce art at Rio Tinto Mhondoro High School. During his teaching period, Hugh realized that there was a shortage of classrooms and a big need to have one for art. This dream came true with the help of school parents & donor friend Kristin Diehl. On 30 November 2010 an Art Centre was officially opened by the Director of the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe Mr. Elvas Mari. Hugh was appointed the Patron of the Centre.

Hugh uses acrylic and oil paint on board or canvas with bright and vibrant colours intermingled with thick brush strokes/tiny detailed designs which interprets Africa on her smiling day. The use of a palette knife has also characterized his style. Hugh's work has a dominant rural

and nature as a subject matter which can clearly be attributed to his rural up-bringing. The work can be figurative or landscapes and recently abstract. He describes his art and style as a means of communication. He strongly believes that art is a language which he fortunately can speak almost fluently. He takes advantage of this gift to explore and live in his own creative world.

Hugh got married in 2007 and has 2 children. Hugh has also managed to get a chance to exhibit and travel abroad. He stayed in Germany & visited France, Switzerland, Italy, Vatican, Luxembourg and Austria. In most of these places, Hugh visited some famous Museums and saw some original world great masters' work. He also drew some inspiration from some world's greatest pieces.