



Title : Tsvuku Tsvuku/ Red is Red (2019)
Medium : Clay, sgraffito, and smoke fired
Size : 35x17x17 cm

Online virtual exhibition by
Nyasha Tatenda Chigama
**SURREAL AND ENCHANTED
WANDERINGS**
05.02.2021 – 05.03.2021



BIOGRAPHY

Nyasha Chigama is a contemporary artist based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Chigama's body of work involves use of terracotta and porcelain as mediums of expression and research. The clay she uses which is extracted from anthills and refined brings out the irony that the ant colony is a matriarchal system in which the Queen ant is the power of Government. Chigama explore the power structures and the existence of domination in eco- politics and this provides her an entry into dialogue on how the systems of domination such as matriarchy and patriarch exist in the shona community.

Her ethnic vessels symbolize the dominance in the hierarchal structured societies based on the aesthetical value of the vessels. Her vessels are burnished using the traditional method with a smooth, glassy stone found on the riverbank called 'hurungudo' (which means polishing stone). The hurungudo symbolizes the slow way in which nature processes rough stones into smooth pebbles which is symbolic of the transgenerational esoteric knowledge of women.

In her work, she explores the cultural, social and political location of the contemporary Zimbabwean woman. She does this in an autobiographical way immersing herself in some of those roles and processes of creative production. In her recent body of work, the tedious production of ceramic vessels and the processing of the raw material as a ritual and practice which is mostly ascribed to female bodies. Chigama questions this ascription and seeks to leverage it into something more than menial labour.

Working in a background of traditional and contemporary misogyny, she explores ideas of transformative labour and reclaims agency by subverting the traditional function and aesthetic of clay vessels. In a *Joy de vivre* approach, she investigates ways in which the contemporary Zimbabwean woman can negotiate and thrive in unhealthy Patriarchal domestic and political situations. She creates uncanny vessels that explore the plurality of what it means to be a woman in contemporary African contexts, making vessels that question the basic definition of function and utilitarian politics.

The labour intensive approach to her work is part of autobiographical research in which she seeks ways in which communities of women can be empowered in therapeutic and economic ways in their everyday routine. She explores the notions of ritual and inheritance in connection to women looking at transgenerational sharing of esoteric knowledge among women. Most of her vessel forms are a response to those heirloom ones passed from mother in law to daughter in law for preservation of knowledge and as tokens of motherhood.



Title : Mapundu / Questionable Lumps (2020)
Medium : Clay, sgraffito, and smoke fired
Size : 31x18x13 cm



Title : Muridzo / The Whistler (2020)

Medium : Clay, wax, and smoke fired

Size : 49x19x19 cm



Title : Hurukuro / Conversation (2019)
Medium : Clay, sgraffito, and smoke fired
Size : Variable



Title : Menyukira / The Brocken Neck (2017)
Medium : Clay, and smoke fired
Size : Variable



Title : Hari YaMusikavanhu / Godly Vessel (2019)
Medium : Clay, burnished, and smoke fired
Size : 29x10x9.5 cm



Title : Hari yeZizi / The Witches Cauldron (2020)
Medium : Clay and smoke fired
Size : 28x24x24 cm



Title : Hari yaMwari / Godly Vessel 2 (2019)

Medium : Clay, sgraffito, and smoke fired

Size : 30x23x23 cm



Title : Dema Dema / Black is Black (2019)

Medium : Clay and smoke fired

Size : 32x19x19 cm

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

2016 Chinhoyi University of technology, B.F.A, Majoring in Ceramics

EXHIBITIONS

SOLO:

CURRENT 'Surreal and Enchanted', Virtual show with Post Studio Art Collective.

GROUP:

2020 'The arts gathering (TAG) 2020', Afrikera Arts Trust, Zimbabwe.

2019 'Engaging the 45th year', Gallery Delta, Zimbabwe.

2018 'Musimboti', National gallery of Zimbabwe, Mutare, Zimbabwe.

2018 'Young artist', Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.

2018 'Artist in the stream 1X', Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.

2017 'From line to form', Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.

2016 'Det-Zim cultural exchange exhibition', U245 Gallery, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, Michigan USA.

2016 'Artist in the stream V11', Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.

2016 'What about us' A woman only exhibition, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.

2015 'Artists in the stream V1', Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.

TEACHING

2016 Dzimbanhete screen print workshop, Harare, Zimbabwe.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Post Studio for more information or any other queries at poststudioart@gmail.com

Prices of artworks are upon request.

