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Zim art works on show in Czech Republic



Saturday, 17 July 2010 15:32

AN EXHIBITION featuring works of five Zimbabwean visual artists is underway at the Emil Julis and Antiquariat Fabio gallery in the Czech Republic.

The showcase — titled “Born in Zimbabwe” — opened last week and runs until September 11.

Works on display are from Dominic Benhura, Voti Thebe, Lovemore Kambudzi, David Chinyama and Batsirai Muskwe. All the pieces on display are from Marie Imbrova's private collection. Imbrova is a former Charge de Affairs of the Czech Republic to Zimbabwe who greatly supported visual arts in various ways during her sojourn in Harare.

She was instrumental in raising funds for various painting and sculpture projects in the country and has kept a strong link with artists like Benhura.

In the exhibition “Born in Zimbabwe”, six of Benhura's sculptures are on display. Benhura's works portray movement in the empiric natural circumstance which has made many of his art pieces unique both internationally and at his home base in Zimbabwe.

Benhura, a well-known artist in Zimbabwe, has sculptures in different corners of the world as collections bought by art lovers and collectors. His pieces also decorate the lobbies of famous international companies worldwide.

The sculptor confirmed his strong ties with Imbrova saying they were planning to do more exhibitions together.

“She has been very supportive and has introduced the Zimbabwean artists in her country. This is her own exhibition but we are planning to do something together that might see me taking my pieces to the Czech Republic. I have never been there and I hope these efforts will help build a good market for Zimbabwean artists.”

Lovemore Kambudzi's paintings at the exhibition are a depiction of the political system in Zimbabwe as well as the everyday life of Zimbabweans. His spotted figures with their caricatured faces are the typical picture of the times.

His work can be admired in several international galleries such as the two displayed at the Czech National gallery in Prague.

David Chinyama's work is in direct contrast to his previous work. His new work is calm, relaxing, showing of the non-conflict style, his interest about nature and family life — all elements that led to his fame and the interest of art lovers

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both in the USA and Western Europe.

Voti Thebe does not deny his inspiration from the fighting traditions of the Zulu, which in fact form part of his own background, what with his being very close to the traditions and habits of this tribe. Thebe's expressive triptych canvases are on show at the exhibition.

The clear representative of the local symbolism is Batsirai Muskwe, the last of the five African artists. He plays with the symbols, colours and composition and then reflects it in his masterpieces.

This exhibition is held with the support of Hynek Kmolicek, Foreign Affairs Vice-Minister of the Czech Republic — africancolours.com/our staff

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