



## “CHAPUNGU: Nature, Man, and Myth”

April 28 through October 31, 2007

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“Chapungu: Nature, Man, and Myth” presents 23 monumental, hand-carved stone sculptures of people, animals, and creatures of legend created by artists from the African nation of Zimbabwe, many from the Shona tribe. The exhibition illustrates a traditional African family’s attitude and close bond to nature, illustrating their interdependence in an increasingly complex world and fragile environment.

#### How does this exhibition differ from the one the Missouri Botanical Garden hosted in 2001?

All but one of the sculptures in this exhibition have never been displayed at the Missouri Botanical Garden. “Chapungu: Custom and Legend, A Culture in Stone” made its U.S. debut here in 2001. Two large sculptures from that exhibition were acquired by the Garden: “Protecting the Eggs” by Damian Manuhwa, and the touching “Sole Provider” by Joe Mutasa. Both are located in the Azalea-Rhododendron Garden, near the tram shelter. “Sole Provider” was donated by the people of Zimbabwe and Chapungu Sculpture Park in memory of those who died during the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

An opal stone sculpture from the 2001 exhibition – Biggie Kapeta’s “Chief Consults With Chapungu”– returns as a preview piece, installed outside the Ridgway Center in January. Many artists from the 2001 exhibition are represented by other works this time.

#### How do you say Chapungu? What does it mean?

Say “Cha-POONG-goo.” Chapungu is a metaphor for the Bateleur Eagle (*Terathopius ecaudatus*), a powerful bird of prey that can fly up to 300 miles in a day at 30 to 50 miles per hour. The bird’s characteristic markings are black feathers with white underneath its long wings, a bright red face and legs, a short tail and black beak. It measures 24 inches long, with a five-and-a-half to six-foot wingspan, weighing from four to six-and-a-half pounds. It is commonly found south of the Sahara Desert in the savannahs, open forests and semi-deserts of central and southern Africa. The Shona people believe the “Chapungu Bird” is a good omen and brings protection and good fortune. Locally, Bateleur Eagles live in captivity at the Saint Louis Zoo’s Bird House and Garden, and its Children’s Zoo.

#### Where is Zimbabwe?

Zimbabwe (“Zim-BOB-way”), formerly known as Southern Rhodesia, is located in south central Africa, surrounded by Zambia, Botswana, South Africa and Mozambique. The name means “large house of stone.” The spectacular Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River are one of the world’s great natural wonders.

#### Who are the Shona people?

The Shona are a tribe of people native to Zimbabwe, who created the form of stone art called “Shona art” or “Chapungu.” Trees, plants, animals, insects, reptiles and birds are an integral part of their history, legend and culture.

#### THE ARTISTS...

##### Who are the artists?

Nineteen artists are represented: Dominic Benhura, Ephraim Chaurika, Sanwell Chirume, Edward Chiwawa, Tapfuma Gutsa, Nicholas Kadzungura, Biggie Kapeta, Josiah Manzi, Bernard Matemera, Boira Mteki, Sylvester Mubayi, Gift



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Muchenje, Henry Munyaradzi, Joe Mutasa, Fungayi Mwarowa, Rachel Ndandarika, Taylor Nkomo, Agnes Nyanhongo, Gedion Nyanhongo and Bernard Takawira.

**Are the artists here? Can I meet them?**

Some artists are in residence throughout the exhibition on a rotating schedule. Artists will conduct on-site demonstrations and five-day stone sculpting workshops on Linnean Plaza, Tuesday through Saturday, beginning June 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**THE ART...**

**What kinds of stones are used?**

Opal stone, cobalt and springstone – all various forms of serpentine – are quarried from mines in different parts of Zimbabwe. Visitors can see and touch samples of these stones, and handle a set of sculpting tools, at an interpretative cart located on the grounds. Some of the smaller works for sale inside the Brookings Center are made of dolomite, granite and other stones.

**What tools do the artists use?**

The Chapungu artists use non-mechanical tools, often handmade, to craft the stone. Due to its hardness, chisels, hammers, punchers, tile cutters and metal combs are used, as well as 60 to 800-grit emery paper. When the design is complete, the artist polishes the sculpture with clear wax to bring out the stone's textures and natural colors.

**How large are the sculptures? How much do they weigh?**

They range in height from three to 10 feet and weigh between 600 and 6,000 pounds.

**May I touch the sculpture?**

Yes, respectfully.

**THE EXHIBITION...**

**Where are the sculptures?**

Outdoors, grouped by theme: Man & Family, Man & Nature, and Man & Myth. One sculpture is displayed inside the Climatron conservatory. Up to 100 small to medium-size original sculptures are available for purchase at the gift shop and gallery inside the Brookings Center at the exit of the Climatron.

**How many are there?**

Twenty-three large works comprise the main exhibition.

**How much does it cost to see the exhibition?**

It is included with general Garden admission of \$8 (St. Louis City and County adults \$4, seniors \$2). Admission is free for children age 12 and under, and Garden members. (There is no additional charge to enter the Climatron or Temperate House in 2007.)

**Where can I buy a ticket?**

At the Ridgway Center ticket window, inside ticket counter or in advance online at [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org). Follow the steps to print your ticket and bring it to the Garden. Tickets may also be purchased in advance over the phone by calling (314) 577-5101 during weekday business hours.

**Are the sculptures lit at night?**

Yes. Every Thursday evening beginning May 3, "Chapungu Nights" from 5 to 9 p.m. features artist demonstrations, music, entertainment, alfresco dining at the Sassafras café, and a cash bar on Spoehrer Plaza. Admission is \$10 (members \$5).

**Is the Chapungu art for sale?**

In addition to the exhibition sculptures, small to medium-size original art is available for purchase inside the Brookings Center at the exit of the Climatron, and in the Garden Gate Shop. Prices range from \$100 to \$15,000.

**Is there an exhibition guide for sale?**

Yes, in the Garden Gate Shop and the Chapungu Shop in the Brookings Center.

**Where can I learn more about Chapungu?**

Meet the artists at Chapungu Nights on Thursdays. Read more online at [www.chapungu.com](http://www.chapungu.com).

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