

# Nature's Creation

*Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe*

造化神秀

津巴布韦石雕

甘肃省文化厅

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AFRICAN CULTURES  
IN FOCUS 2010  
非洲文化聚焦

2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周

African Cultures in Focus 2010 · Zimbabwe Culture Week

造化神秀·津巴布韦石雕展

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展示异域石雕艺术  
促进中外文化交流  
贺津巴布韦石雕艺术展 陆浩



中共甘肃省委书记、省人大常委会主任陆浩题词：

展示异域石雕艺术，促进中外文化交流。贺津巴布韦石雕艺术展

Inscription by Lu Hao—Secretary of Gansu Provincial Committee of Chinese Communist Party and Director of Standing Committee of Provincial People's Congress of Gansu:

Demonstrates the art of sculpture from foreign lands, promotes cultural exchange between China and foreign countries. Congratulations on Zimbabwe Stone Sculpture Exhibition



To the People's Republic of  
China and Gansu  
Province:

Thank you for  
organizing this  
exhibition—I hope  
that it further  
strengthens the

relations between  
our countries.

Best wishes,

David Coltart.

SENATOR DAVID

COLTART

MINISTER OF

EDUCATION, SPORT

ARTS & CULTURE

ZIMBABWE 12.8.10

大卫·考塔特部长题词：

致中华人民共和国和中国甘肃省：感谢你们组织、举办此展览——我希望，展览将进一步加深我们两国间的关系。最美好的祝愿！

An inscription from Minister David Coltart for the exhibition:

To the People's Republic of China and Gansu Province: Thank you for organizing this exhibition—I hope that it further and strengthen the relations between our countries. Best wishes.

## 前 言

在“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周”活动在兰开幕之际，我们为能把“造化神秀·津巴布韦石雕展”奉呈于社会各界人士和广大观众面前而感到由衷的高兴。

津巴布韦地处非洲内陆，是一个历史悠久、资源丰富的美丽国家，津巴布韦人民素以喜爱艺术著称，尤其是津巴布韦石雕以其简洁的线条、粗犷的造型以及富于想象的夸张变形给人以震撼，堪称人类文明宝库中的瑰宝。石雕“津巴布韦鸟”成为津巴布韦国家的象征和人民的骄傲。

“造化神秀·津巴布韦石雕展”精心遴选来自津巴布韦民间艺术家极具质朴而非凡感染力的100件石雕艺术作品，这些作品蕴涵着津巴布韦神秘的宗教文化和古老的民间传说，体现着津巴布韦悠久的历史，表现了非洲大地原始的唯美与宁静，强调了生命的本质与内涵，具有极强的原生态艺术气息和极高的美学欣赏价值，给人以极大的视觉冲击和心灵共鸣。这样大规模高规格的石雕艺术精品展览在甘肃省博物馆展出，在甘肃与非洲文化交流史上还是第一次。我们期盼通过举办这个展览进一步加深对津巴布韦文化与艺术的认识，进一步促进中国人民和津巴布韦人民的了解与友谊、交流与合作。



## Preface

On the occasion of the opening of the activity “African Cultures in Focus 2010, Zimbabwe Culture Week” in Lanzhou, we feel happy from the bottom of our heart to present this exhibition “Creating Miraculous Beauty • Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe” to the public. Zimbabwe, located in the inland Africa, is a country with a long history, abundant natural resources, beautiful natural landscapes and art-loving people. Stone carvings made by people of Zimbabwe known for their concise line, rugged shape, artistic exaggeration out of rich imagination always shock us when we face them. They are art gems in the treasure house of human civilization. The stone sculpture “Zimbabwe Bird” has become the pride of the Zimbabweans and a symbol of their country.

This exhibition “Creating Miraculous Beauty • Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe” shows 100 pieces of carefully selected stone sculptures created by Zimbabwean folk artists with simple form and extraordinary artistic appeal. These artistic works embody the mysterious religious culture and ancient folk legend, incarnate the primitive aestheticism and tranquility of African continent and the old-age history of Zimbabwe as well, emphasize the nature and connotation of life. They bear an extremely strong taste of original eco-art and extremely high aesthetic value for appreciation giving people exceedingly intense visual shock and psychic resonance. This is the first time for Gansu Provincial Museum to have the opportunity to hold such large-scale and high-grade exhibition, also the first time for the cultural exchange between Gansu and Africa. We eagerly wish to enrich our understanding of culture and art of Zimbabwe, deepen the friendship between Chinese people and Zimbabwean people and push on the bi-lateral exchange and co-operation through this exhibition.

## 在“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周”暨 津巴布韦石雕展开幕式上的致辞

津巴布韦共和国教育、体育、文化和艺术部长  
大卫·考塔特

尊敬的主持人，女士们，先生们：

我深感荣幸，能于这个八月在异国他乡举办的“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周”暨津巴布韦石雕展开幕式上致辞。

上个星期六，在距兰州不远的地方发生了洪水和泥石流，甘肃人民承受了痛苦，许多生命消逝了。首先，请接受我的哀悼。悲剧降临到甘肃人民身上，我和津巴布韦全国人民心情十分沉重。我们对遇难者表示哀思，为他们的家庭和救援人员祈祷。

今天即将开幕的津巴布韦石雕展充分体现了中华人民共和国这一伟大国度对津巴布韦雕塑的重视。在此，我想向中华人民共和国的人民致敬，并对文化周和展览的成功举办表示祝贺。

我为能参加此次活动感到激动，因为津巴布韦是首次参与这样的展览，这将进一步加强和拓展两国在文化艺术领域已存在的双边关系。自津巴布韦争取独立和自决时起，两国在政治、经济方面就一直开展合作，然而之前的文化合作没有像现在这样被重视。

“津巴布韦”这个名字意为“石头屋”。津巴布韦五大城市之一的马斯温哥有个名为“伟大津巴布韦”的遗址建筑，即由雕刻华美、雕工高超的石头建成。所以这个国家有很深厚的石雕传统。

正是基于这一传统，石雕技术在我国发展很成熟，以至于当时的殖民政府在意识到这一点后于1957设立了国家美术馆，专门用来为当时和未来有潜力的雕塑家提供资助，受到欢迎。20世纪60和70年代，国家美术馆还做了大量工作推销雕塑家们的作品。

1980年独立时，我国曾有一大批优秀的雕塑家，当时号称世界上每五个雕塑家中有四个来自津巴布韦。当时最成功、最受追捧的雕塑家有约翰和伯纳德·塔卡维拉兄弟、伯纳德·马特梅拉、亨利·姆恩亚拉得兹、尼克拉斯·姆考穆贝让瓦，等等。

很多年里，这些艺术家雕刻的作品都创意十足、突破传统，同时他们也逐步将技艺传授给年轻一代。这样一来，当时，一方面很多刊物不停地评论、抨击这些作品；另一方

面，这些作品源源不断地送到世界各地展出且好评如潮。总的来说，这些作品关注探求传统生命和信仰的存在论主题；另外，它们基本都是抛过光、外观简洁的成品。

20世纪80年代以来，一批新的年轻雕塑家开始占据历史舞台。他们中的多数接受的是传帮带式的非正规训练，并开始用国内丰富的石矿作为原料来创造作品。然而他们的作品从本质来讲更世俗化，更关注社会问题以及非洲传统世界观到现代世界观的转变，这一转变涵盖包括文化在内的各样主题。这一代的艺术家很少接受正规训练，主要包括塔普夫马·嘎查、约瑟夫·姆宗多、布莱顿·桑够、克里恩·马达莫姆贝。

虽然石雕创作基本上是男性行为，也有那么几位女性雕塑家在此拥有一席之地。她们不但雕刻了较为阴柔的形象，还探讨了诸如妇女社会地位的女性相关问题。艾格尼丝·恩亚恩夸格和已故克里恩·马达莫姆贝等艺术家确立了女性雕塑家的牢固地位。

然而，还需提一下的是，随着其他用料和石料的同时使用，石雕艺术在过去十年里有了改变。这就是混合媒介雕塑。

女士们、先生们，我想感谢中华人民共和国邀请我出席此次活动，感谢活动的举办方、这些石雕作品的作者们和承展方，以及今天到场的广大观众。如果没有你们，活动将无法成功举办。

津巴布韦在过去几十年里由于国内政治动荡，形象不甚佳。2009年新的过渡政府成立以来，我们正在努力树立津巴布韦新的正面形象。我们的艺术始终是津巴布韦社会一个积极的具有建设性意义的因素，所以在国际上对其进行推广，是我们重树国家形象的关键方面。当然，这一做法的实际意义远远超越艺术和文化本身。正如贵国1978年以来所做的那样，它也是帮助国家稳定和重建的重要步骤。

我相信2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周和津巴布韦石雕展将取得圆满成功，将进一步加强我们两国之间的关系。

谢谢。

2010年8月12日 兰州



**Opening Speech for  
"African Cultures in Focus 2010 • Zimbabwe Culture Week  
And Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibition"**

By Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, Senator David Coltart

Honorable Vice Minister of Culture of China  
Honorable Vice Governor of Gansu Province of China  
The Director of the ceremony, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me a great sense of honor and pride to address this August gathering on the occasion of "African Cultures in Focus 2010" —Zimbabwe Culture Week and the Exhibition of Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture especially when the Exhibition of Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture is held in a foreign land.

At the outset however please would you accept our condolences with regard to the loss of life and suffering which has taken place this week in Gansu Province, indeed not far from here, as a result of the flood and mud slide which hit on Saturday. I know I speak on behalf of the whole nation of Zimbabwe when I say how sorry we are that this tragedy has befallen your people at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims, their families and also the rescue teams.

This exhibition which will be opened soon today clearly shows how the great nation of the People's Republic of China values Zimbabwean culture and in particular our sculpture. For that, I would like to pay tribute to the people of the People's Republic of China and congratulate them for successfully organizing the Zimbabwe Culture Week and this exhibition.

I am also excited to be part of this gathering because Zimbabwe is participating at this exhibition for the first time ever. Zimbabwe's participation here further strengthens and broadens the bilateral relations in the arts and culture that exist between our two great nations. Politically and economically, our two countries have been cooperating since the days of Zimbabwe's struggle for independence and self determination. However, the area of culture has not been taken seriously as we witness today.

The country's name, Zimbabwe means the House of Stone. The Great Zimbabwe structures located near Masvingo—one of Zimbabwe's five cities—were built from beautifully and skillfully sculptured stones. So the country has a strong legacy of stone carving tradition.

As a result of this stone carving tradition, stone carving skills are very well developed in my country. Taking cognisance of this, the white minority government of that time opened a National Gallery in 1957 that provided a welcome stimulus to the then present and would-be sculptors. From then on sculpture began to take root in the country. The National Gallery did a great deal to market the work of artists in sculpture during the 1960s and 1970s.

By the time of the attainment of Independence in 1980, a number of excellent sculptors existed in the country and their acclaim was such that Zimbabwe was at that time identified as the home of 4 out of 5 of the best sculptors in the world. By then the most successful and sought after sculptors included brothers John and Bernard Takawira, Bernard Matemera, Henry Munyaradzi and Nicholas Mukomberanwa among others.

These artists produced innovative and ground-breaking work for many years while taking time also to pass on their skills and expertise to a younger generation. As a result many publications were produced analyzing and

interrogating their works while, at the same time, the works were being shown all over the world to continue critical acclaim. Generally the works focused on ontological themes that explored traditional life and beliefs. These works were largely well finished, polished and compact in form.

From the nineteen eighties a new younger breed of sculptors began to take centre stage. Most of these artists had received informal training from established artists and they began to produce new work making use of the abundant stone deposits in the country as raw materials. However, their work was more secular in nature and more concerned with social issues and the transition that was taking place from the traditional African world outlook to a modern one that draws on diverse subject matters and even culture. This generation of artists received little formal training and include such artists as Tapfuma Gutsa, Joseph Muzondo, Brighton Sango, Colleen Madamombe among others.

Although the nature of the production is largely a male preserve several female sculptors have established a niche in this field producing works that represent softer and more feminine imagery while exploring female issues such as various roles that women play in society. Artists like Agnes Nyanhongo and the late Colleen Madamombe have put the female sculptors firmly on the map.

It should be noted, however, that stone sculpture has changed over the last ten years with the introduction of other materials alongside the use of stone. These are mixed media sculptures.

Let me conclude, Ladies and Gentlemen, by thanking the People's Republic of China for inviting me to this exhibition, the organisers of this event, the artists who produced these pieces of work, the exhibitors and the general public who have come to see the works for without them the event would have been a non event.

Zimbabwe has been a negative brand for the last few decades because of our internal political turmoil. With the advent of the new transitional government in February 2009, we are trying to create a new positive brand for Zimbabwe. Our art has always been a constructive and positive feature of our society and so its promotion internationally is a critical component of this rebranding exercise. Accordingly, events such as this exhibition go way beyond art and culture and are an important step in assisting us stabilize and rebuild Zimbabwe, just as you have done in your great nation since 1978.

I trust that the Zimbabwe Culture Week and 2010 Exhibition of Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture will be a great success and that it will further strengthen relations between our Nations. I thank you!

August 12, 2010, Lanzhou



## 在“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周” 暨津巴布韦石雕展开幕式上的致辞

中华人民共和国文化部副部长 赵少华

尊敬的大卫·考塔特部长、郝远副省长，  
女士们、先生们，朋友们：

值此“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周”暨津巴布韦石雕展在中国甘肃开幕之际，我谨代表中华人民共和国文化部表示热烈的祝贺。

中国、非洲相距遥远，但中非人民间的友谊源远流长、历久弥坚。近代以来，中非人民共同努力谱写着建设国家、振兴民族的光辉篇章，为推动人类的文明进步做出了重大贡献。

文化是人类心灵沟通的桥梁和纽带。“中非文化聚焦”是在近年来中非文化密切交往中形成的活动品牌。今年的“非洲文化聚焦”已于5月在北京启动，共有12个非洲国家的艺术团将陆续来到中国，展示非洲文化魅力，促进中非间的友谊与了解。

今天，在中国甘肃——中华文明的发祥地之一，津巴布韦文化周正式拉开帷幕。由大卫·考塔特部长亲率代表团，不远万里带来举世闻名的津巴布韦石雕展和具有浓郁非洲风情的文艺演出，将令我们亲身感受津巴布韦文化的独特魅力，它也将是今年中津建交30周年的一份珍贵礼物。

我知道非洲有句俗语，叫“结伴才能走得远”。希望以“津巴布韦文化周”、以中津建交30周年为新的契机，让我们共同努力推动两国文化关系迈向新的阶段、取得新的成果，为中津双边关系的发展，为中非共建政治上平等互信、经济上合作共赢、文化上交流互鉴的新型战略伙伴关系做出新的更大的贡献。

最后，再次感谢甘肃省委、省政府及省文化厅和省博物馆等各界朋友为举办此次文化周所付出的辛勤努力，尤其在当前，刚刚发生了泥石流的自然灾害，我们向不幸遇难的同胞致哀，向顽强抗灾的甘肃人民致敬！

最后，也再次感谢大卫·考塔特部长与您的代表团，衷心祝愿“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦艺术周”暨津巴布韦石雕展取得圆满成功！

谢谢大家！

2010年8月12日 兰州



**Opening Speech for  
"African Cultures in Focus 2010 • Zimbabwe Culture Week  
And Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibition"**

By Vice Minister of Culture of P.R. China, Ms. Zhao Shaohua

Honorable Minister David Coltart,  
Honorable Vice Governor Hao Yuan  
Ladies and Gentlemen friends

On the occasion of the opening of the activity "African Cultures in Focus 2010 • Zimbabwe Culture Week and Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibition " in Gansu, I would express my warm congratulations on behalf of Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China.

China and Africa are far apart, but friendship between Chinese people and African people goes back to ancient times and remain unshakable and become even firmer as time goes by. In the modern times, Chinese and African people wrote glorious chapter on the national construction, national rejuvenation, and made a significant contribution to the promotion of human civilization.

Culture is a bridge and a link between human minds. "Chinese and African Cultures in Focus" has become a brand project in recent years` close cultural contacts between China and Africa. This year's "African Cultures in Focus 2010 " was launched in May 20 in Beijing, art troupes from 12 African countries will come to China successively to show the charm of African cultures and promote friendship and understanding between China and Africa.

Zimbabwe Culture Week is to raise the curtain officially today in Gansu, China – one of the cradles of Chinese civilization. The Zimbabwean delegation led personally by Minister David Coltart traveled thousands of miles to China bringing the world famous Zimbabwean stone sculpture exhibition and art performances with strong African taste and hence providing us an opportunity to feel in person the unique charm of Zimbabwean culture. It will also be a precious gift for the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Zimbabwe.

There is an African saying "go only hand in hand and go far." I hope that both sides can take the activity "Zimbabwe Culture Week" as a new opportunity, and make a joint effort to promote the cultural relations between the two countries to a new stage, acquire new achievements, thus make a greater contribution to the development of bi-lateral relation and the establishment of a new strategic partnership on the basis of equality and mutual trust in politics, mutual win in economics, mutual exchanges and learning in cultures.

Finally, I would like to thank again Gansu Provincial Committee of CCP, Gansu Provincial Government, Gansu Provincial Bureau of Culture, Gansu Provincial Museum and friends from all walks of life for hosting the "Zimbabwe Culture Week and Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibiton" with their arduous work especially at the present time when the debris flow—a serious natural disaster just occurred. We would express our condolences to the victims and pay our respects to people of Gansu who fought the disaster doggedly.

Finally, thank once again Minister David Coltart and your delegation, and sincerely wish the "African Cultures in Focus 2010 • Zimbabwe Culture Week " and Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibition a full success! Thank you!

August 12, 2010, Lanzhou

## 在“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周”暨 津巴布韦石雕展开幕式上的致辞

甘肃省人民政府副省长 郝远

尊敬的大卫·考塔特部长阁下，尊敬的赵少华副部长，  
各位来宾，女士们、先生们：

大家上午好！

由中华人民共和国文化部、甘肃省人民政府、国家广电总局、新闻出版总署、国家体育总局、国家文物局共同举办的“2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周”暨津巴布韦石雕展，今天在甘肃省博物馆正式开幕了，这是我省文化事业中的一件盛事，更是中津两国人民友谊的见证。在此，我谨代表甘肃省人民政府，向此次展览的成功举办，表示衷心的祝贺！对远道而来的津巴布韦政府文化代表团，表示热烈的欢迎！

“2010非洲文化聚焦”活动是我国政府履行中非合作论坛第四届部长级会议承诺，进一步推动中非文化交流互鉴，加深两国人民相互了解的具体举措。近年来，在文化部的大力支持下，我省与非洲国家的文化交流不断拓展，友好往来频繁，甘肃艺术团先后赴非洲的10多个国家访问演出和开展文化艺术援助活动，非洲有近30个国家的文化人士先后来我省访问，通过多种形式的文化交流与合作，增进了我省人民与非洲国家人民的深厚友谊。

津巴布韦是一个有着悠久历史和灿烂文明的国家。石雕艺术在津巴布韦源远流长，其独到的生命意识和视觉艺术震撼世界。这次展览将展出100件石雕精品。这些作品想象丰富，表现了非洲大地原始的唯美与宁静，强调了生命的本质与内涵。这些代表了津巴布韦石雕艺术成就的作品将会为中国观众带来丰富而深刻的视觉感受！此外，津巴布韦艺术团还带来了独具非洲特色的歌舞节目，将于今晚进行交流演出。我们相信，通过文化艺术的交流与合作，必将进一步增进甘肃人民对津巴布韦的了解，加深中津两国人民的友谊，拓宽甘肃省和津巴布韦友好合作与交流的新途径。

最后，预祝2010非洲文化聚焦·津巴布韦文化周暨津巴布韦石雕展取得圆满成功！祝考塔特部长阁下，赵少华副部长及各位来宾在甘期间身体健康，工作顺利！

谢谢大家！

2010年8月12日 兰州



**Opening Speech for  
"African Cultures in Focus 2010 • Zimbabwe Culture Week  
And Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibition"**

By Vice Governor of Gansu Province, Mr. Hao Yuan

Your Excellency and Honorable Minister Coltart,  
Honorable Vice Minister Zhao Shaohua  
Distinguished guests friends ladies and gentlemen  
Good morning!

"African Cultures in Focus 2010 • Zimbabwe Culture Week and Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibition" organized jointly by the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, Gansu Provincial Government, State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, Ministry of General Administration of Press and Publication of the People's Republic of China, General Administration of Sport, State Administration of Cultural Heritage and opened officially today in Gansu Provincial Museum is a significant cultural event in the history of Gansu and also a witness of the friendship between Chinese and Zimbabwean people. Here, on behalf of the Gansu Provincial Government, I would like to express our heartfelt congratulations for the success of this exhibition, and a warm welcome to the cultural delegation of Zimbabwean government from afar.

"African Cultures in Focus 2010" is the implementation of the commitment of Chinese government related to the fourth Ministerial Conference of China–Africa Cooperation Forum, also is a concrete measure to further promote China–Africa cultural exchanges and mutual learning, and to deepen mutual understanding. In recent years, with the extensive support of the Ministry of Culture, the cultural exchanges between Gansu province and African countries have been expanded and friendly contacts have been made frequently. Gansu troupes of musicians and artists have given artistic performances and carried out cultural and artistic assistance activities in more than 10 African countries, and scholars from 30 African countries have come and visited Gansu, the friendship between people of our province and people of African countries has been enhanced through various forms of cultural exchange and cooperation.

Zimbabwe has a long history and splendid civilization. Zimbabwean stone sculpture art goes back to ancient times and its unique sense of life and visual art shake the world. As exhibits of this exhibition, 100 pieces of stone sculpture created by Zimbabwean artists out of their rich imagination embody the primitive aestheticism and tranquility of African continent, emphasize the nature and connotation of life. These works of art representing artistic achievement of Zimbabwean sculpture will give Chinese audiences a rich and profound visual perception.

In addition, Zimbabwe artists will give us a colorful dance performance with unique African taste tonight. We believe that cultural and artistic exchange and cooperation will surely enhance the understanding of Gansu people for Zimbabwean people, deepen the friendship between Chinese people and Zimbabwean people, creating new ways of friendly exchange and cooperation between Gansu and Zimbabwe.

Finally, I wish the African Cultures in Focus 2010 • Zimbabwe Culture Week and Zimbabwean Stone Sculpture Exhibition a complete success! I wish His Excellency Minister Coltart, Vice Minister Zhao Shaohua and our distinguished guests a good health and favoring work during your stay in Gansu! Thank you!

August 12, 2010, Lanzhou