



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
of Santa Monica

presents

Making Connections Through the Zimbabwe Artists Project An Art Exhibit

Opening Reception: Sunday, November 3, 2013 from 12:00 - 1:30pm

Open every Sunday in November from 9:00am – 1:00pm

(see below for more details)

The Zimbabwe Artists Project (ZAP) aims to strengthen self-sufficiency and deepen cultural understanding by promoting women artists from rural Weya in Eastern Zimbabwe and selling their work to art lovers in the U.S. Based in Portland, Oregon, ZAP's goal is that through this partnership the women will become economically self-sufficient.

Most of the artists are single mothers or widows providing for their families by farming and creating art. Typically, the men from that region, leave to seek work in nearby cities. Income from agriculture is very unpredictable and limited. The funds raised from art sales help the women buy food, clothing, medication, seeds and fertilizer.

In addition to providing financial support through the purchase artwork, ZAP provides health care and educational services to the families and children who have been orphaned.

The artwork addresses issues of gender, colonialism and globalization. Through learning the personal stories as told by the artists, the hope is that viewers discover a connection with these strong, talented and accomplished African women.

We thought you might enjoy reading some of the original stories connected to the art that will be on display throughout the month of November on the Forbes Hall Art Wall masterfully curated by the very dedicated, long-time UUCSM member Beverly Alison.

BIRDS OF AFRICA
By VERONICA CHITSIKE
Fabric painting S 3392



One saddle-billed stork is drinking water while the other one is standing in the water. They are found in Africa. (S 3392)

ARTSIT BIO:

Veronica was born in 1959. She came to Weya in 1982 as the second wife of her husband. She has three children, ages 9 to 19. She learned how to create art in 1988. She felt it was a thing she could do as a woman, and she needed money. "I am a full-time housewife who looks after children, fetches firewood, does plowing, herds cattle and takes them to the dipping tank. I have quite a lot of work." She has time for her artwork during the rainy season only on weekends, with more time available during the dry season. Her favorite topics are wild animals ("baboons who live here in this place") and village life.

EVERYDAY LIFE
By SARUDZAI SHONGE
Applique A 3118



Wauul, here is the exact fruit tree which I was looking for, the muzhange (Uapaca kirkiana) tree," said Mrs. Mungure. "Are we going to pick-up some mushrooms first or fetch some firewood," asked Mrs. Jowa sitting on a stone. "I think we will fetch the firewood first and the mushrooms later," replied Mrs. Shonge. "My children are about to come back from school so let me prepare lunch for them," said Mrs. Chakwenya. Mrs. Paradza is carrying her bundle of firewood on her head and is going home. (A 3118)

ARTIST BIO:

Sarudzai was born in 1972, the youngest of eight children. She attended school through the equivalent of 10th grade after which family financial constraints kept her from going further. She was married four years after leaving school and has three children. She lives with her husband and children in Gokwe in central Zimbabwe. Sarudzai learned to do appliqué from her sister, Orpah Mungure, in 1990. She makes art to help with family expenses. Her favorite topics include lovers, village life and "at the market."

Admission is free

Open to the Public:

Sundays in November from 9AM - 1 PM

Opening Reception: Sunday, November 3, 2013 at 12:00 - 1:30

Meet the Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Artists Project. Light refreshments.

Closing Reception: Sunday, November 27, 2013 at 12:00 - 1:30

Open by appointment:

Monday through Thursday: 10am-5pm

Fridays: 10am-1pm.

Contact: Nancy assistant@uusm.org, 310-829-5436, ext. 102

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica

1260 18th St, Santa Monica 90404 (corner of 18th and Arizona)

Sunday parking in structure on 16th Street south of Arizona Ave.

[Map](#)