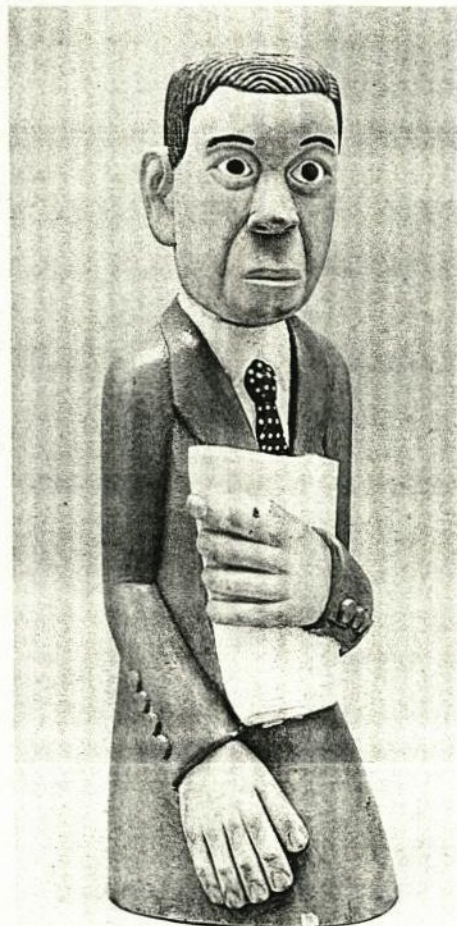


**Born:** 1949, Msengi Village near Giyani, Gazankulu.

Maswanganyi was initiated into carving by his father who was a carver of functional objects such as spoons, bowls and jsuri for crushing maize. Apart from a ten-month period of employment at a brick factory (c 1969), Maswanganyi has earned his living through carving. Initially, he too carved functional objects, as well as medicine gourds, traditional medicine containers with carved wooden stoppers. The commission of a Soweto sangoma directed Maswanganyi to transform these gourds into carved bodies with removable heads as stoppers, called Nyamisoro. This led to a brisk trade in Nyamisoro figures. Following the exhibition of these figures on the Tributaries show, a wide market opened up, which was willing to forget the traditional associations of the figures, and to display them as sculptures. Maswanganyi now supplements his production of Nyamisoro figures with larger carved figures and animals, frequently ornamenting them with paint.



#### Exhibitions:

- 1985 Tributaries.
- 1987 Solo exhibition, Market Gallery. SA Sculptors, RAU.
- 1988 Vita Art Now, JAG.  
Group exhibition, FUBA Gallery.  
Neglected Tradition.
- 1989 Ten Years of Collecting, WITS.

#### Collections:

DAM; JAG; SANG; WITS; UNISA.

#### References:

DSAPS; NT; Gavin Young, ART OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS, LONDON, 1988; TEN YEARS OF COLLECTING (1979-1989), WITS, Johannesburg, 1989.

Cat. 80  
*Dr Verwoerd*  
1987  
Unidentified wood, enamel paint  
73 x 22 x 25  
Collection: WITS