CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS BY ZIMBABWEAN ARTISTS

Issued 21st April, 2009

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2009)[2]

The decade of the 1990s saw the development of a new Zimbabwean contemporary painting movement in the capital Harare. Its beginnings stemmed from the establishment, in the early 1980s of the BAT Workshop, under the auspices of the National Gallery, and an art department at the Polytechnic, to teach students to draw and paint. Subsequently, some of these students were encouraged, nurtured, supported and promoted by Gallery Delta through many exhibitions.

Those who emerged as important painters of that time were Luis Meque, a Mozambican refugee, and his contemporaries George Churu, Richard Witikani, Hilary Kashiri, Ishmael Wilfred, Fasoni Sibanda and James Jali. Sadly, five of these painters were to die young.

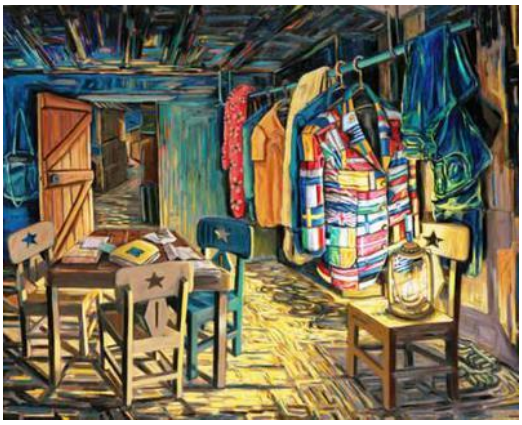
The impetus of this movement has continued through the present decade, and has seen the emergence of prominent painters Cosmos Shiridzinomwa, Lovemore Kambudzi, Patrick Makumbe, Mishek Masamvu, Freddy Tauro, Admire Kamudzengerere and others. The interest, activity and promotion continue.

With this issue, Zimpost introduced two different no value indicators – 'Zs' being the normal local postage rate and related to street delivery, and 'Zb' being the printed matter rate and related to post delivered to post office boxes. The issue also has two stamps with no value indicator of 'A'

Below are other paintings by the artists whose paintings are depicted on the stamps.

Zb: Cosmos Shiridzinomwa
"Cardoor Scape" 2008

Born in 1974. Studied Fine Art at the Harare Polytechnic 1993-1995. Exhibits regularly in Harare where he resides and works. Has held two "One Man" exhibitions. Today heads the Art Department at the Polytechnic. Is a trustee of the Gallery Delta Foundation for Art and the Humanities.





Zs: James Jali
"Countryside" 2000

Born at Goromonzi in 1971. Studied at the BAT Workshop 1993-1995. He then worked as an illustrator in the advertising field. A resident of Harare, he exhibits regularly. His work has been featured in the *"Gallery"* magazine.



A: Hilary Kashiri 1968-2001 – **"Barn" 1998**

Born at Mazowe, Zimbabwe. Qualified in Fine Art at the BAT Workshop. Further studies included Graphics and Photography. Painted and exhibited at Gallery Delta for over ten years. Died at Harare.



R: Admire Kamudzengere – "X in the land" 2008

Born Harare in 1981. After attending the BAT Workshop, he studied Fine Art with Helen Lieros at Gallery Delta. Explores drawing, graphics and painting. He lives and works in Harare.

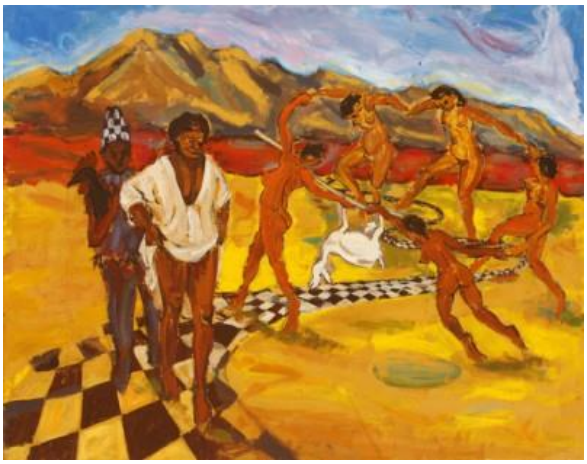
A: George Churu 1964-2002 **– "Mountains" 1996**

Born of Mozambican parents in Mbare, Harare. Attended the BAT Workshop, after which he was employed as an illustrator in the publishing world. He exhibited regularly, and his life and work featured in *"Gallery"* magazine. Died at Gokwe.



E: Freddy Tauro – "Backyard 1" 2007

Born Seke, Harare in 1977. Attended the BAT Workshop 1997-2000. Lives and works in Harare and exhibits regularly. Freddy is the younger brother of Fasoni Sibanda.



The Stamps















(50% of normal size)

Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1271	682	Zb	Cosmos Liberos – 'Cardoor Scape' 2008
1270	683	Zs	James Jali – 'Countryside' 2000
1272	684	A	George Churu – 'Mountains' 1996
1273	685	A	Hilary Kashiri – 'Barn' 1998
1274	686	E	Freddy Tauro – 'Backyard 1' 2007
1275	687	R	Admire Kamudzengere – 'X in the land' 2008
MS1276	MS23		Miniature sheet with stamps se-tenant in block

Technical details

Stamp size:
Sheet stamps: 42 x 28 mm
Miniature sheet: 127 x 129 mm

Sheet Size: 50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet

Artist: As shown above

Paper: ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as "Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper". This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark

Print colours: Cyan, magenta, yellow & black

Perforations:
Sheet stamps: SG 14½, ZSC 14¼
Top margin: Perforated through
Other margins: Imperforate
Miniature sheets: Imperforate margins

Printer: NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer's Imprint: Sheet stamps only: Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black

Cylinder numbers: Sheet stamps only: Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Sheet stamps only: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Sheet Value: Sheet stamps only: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black. All values have the sheet value as "Value R".

Sheet Number: Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down

Print numbers:

Zb	500,000	Zs	300,000
A	30,000	A	30,000
E	30,000	R	30,000
Miniature sheet	15,000		

Issue date: 21st April 2009

Postal Rates

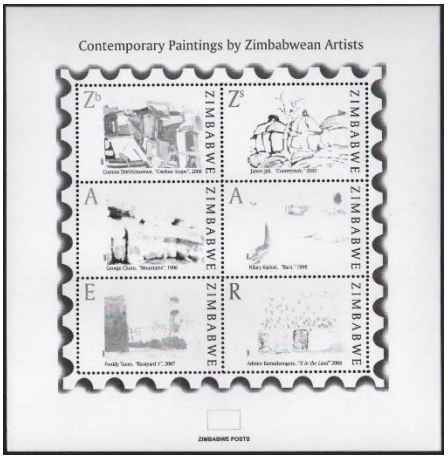
The postal rates applicable at the date of issue were those effective from 18th February 2009, which are quoted in United States dollars, as follows:

Zb	US$0.20	Zs	US$0.25	E	A	US$0.50
E	US$0.75	R	US$1.00			

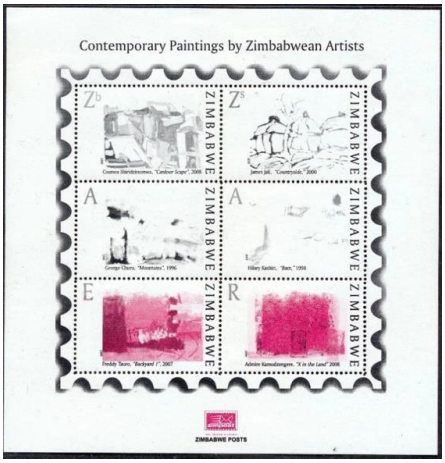
These postal rates, for external destinations are half of those quoted in the postal notice of 5th February, it was apparently realised that these were too high.

For the first time, the Bulletin has not shown the surface mail rates for external destinations. Just prior to this Zimpost ceased sending external mail by surface.

Proofs



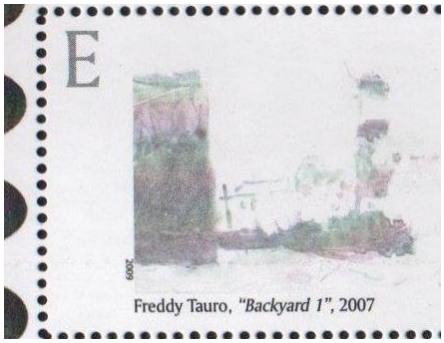
Miniature sheet: Printing of black only
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



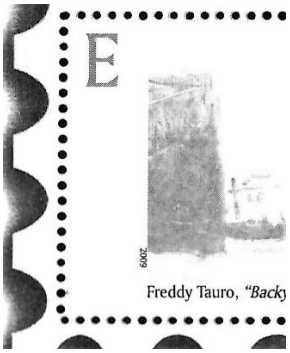
Miniature sheet: Printing of black to all duties and magenta only to lower duties and logo
(Source eBay July 2025)



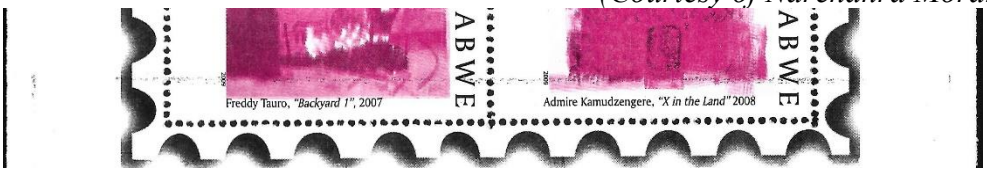
Miniature sheet: Printing of black and magenta only to all duties
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



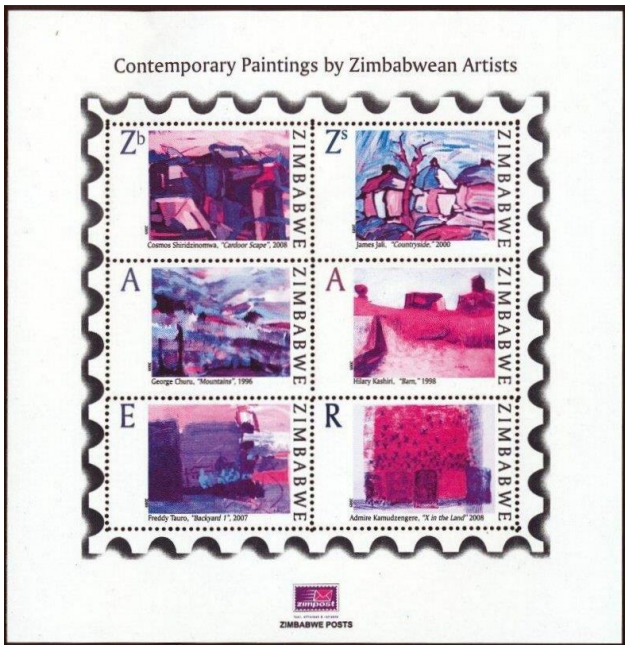
The black only printing appears to have some residual colours in the E value, mainly.



In this example there are no residual colour.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Miniature sheet: Black & magenta printing
With black line running through margin and E & R values.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Miniature sheet: black, magenta and cyan only
(Source ebay June 2024)

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted.

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours.

There is significant colour variation in the printing of most of these stamps.



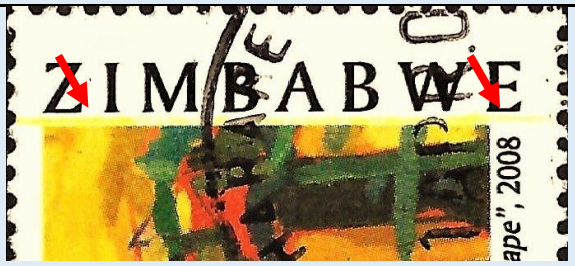
Zb value: Range of colours



Zb value: Cyan printing movement down



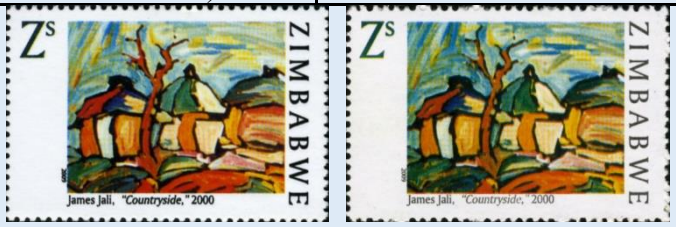
Zb value: Double black printing
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Zb value: broad yellow strip through stamp to the left of 'Zimbabwe'.
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Zs value: Double black printing
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Zs value: Range of colours



A value: Magenta printing down





A value: Range of colours



A value: Toe black lines to left of painting, appears to be constant.

(Courtesy of Malte Luebker)



A value: Movement of perforations to right with horizontal perfs cutting through value



E value: Range of colours



E value: Missing vertical pin holes to bottom corners.



E value: Movement of magenta plate down



E value: black line to left of painting, appears to be econstant.
(Courtesy of Malte Luebker)



R value: Range of colours



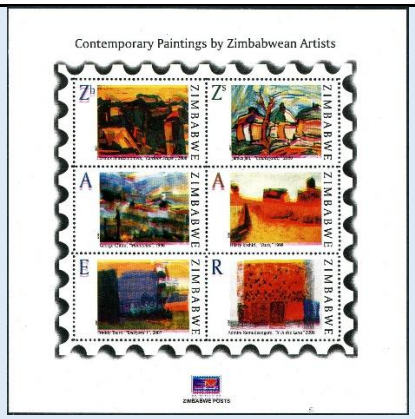
Missing vertical pin holes to bottom corners



R value: Movement of magenta plate down, see top of painting – now yellow



Miniature sheet: Cyan printing down
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



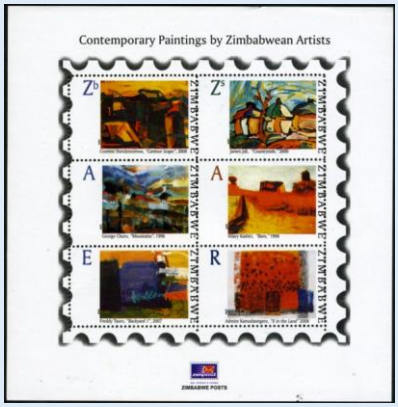
Miniature sheet: Magenta printing down
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



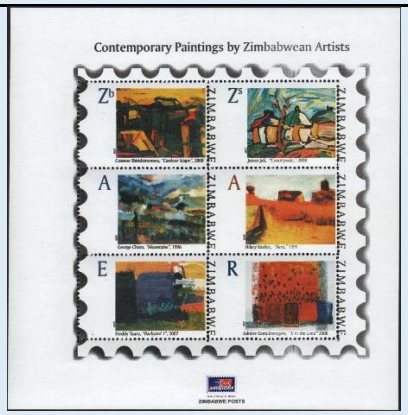
Miniature sheet: Additional perforations through top margin



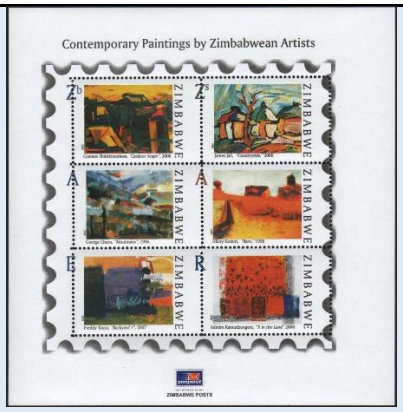
Miniature sheet: Movement of horizontal perforations upwards through artists' names.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



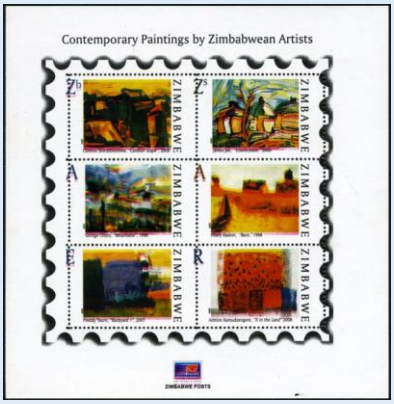
Miniature sheet: Movement of perfs to left, with centre vertical perfs through Zimbabwe



Miniature sheet: Movement of perfs to left into the painting.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Miniature sheet: Movement of perfs to the right, with vertical perfs bisecting values.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



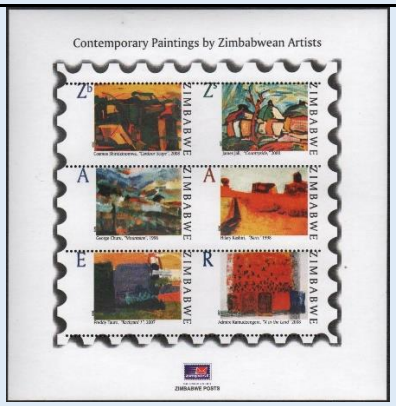
Miniature sheet: Movement of perfs to the right, with vertical perfs bisecting values. In addition, magenta printing down



Miniature sheets: Partial imperforate to the top of the Z values. This is not caused by a movement of the vertical perfs down, there are no perfs in the bottom margin.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



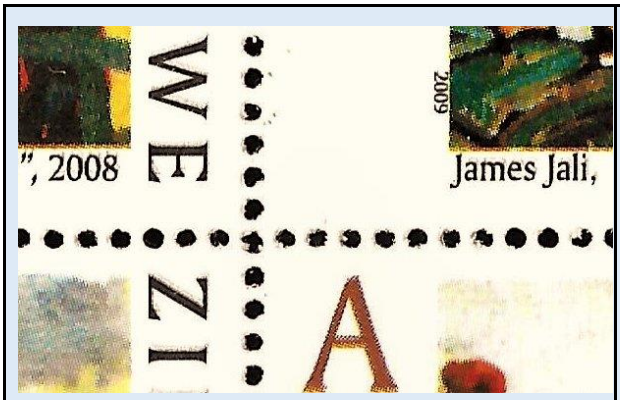
Miniature sheet: Imperforate side margins to the Z values. This is not caused by a shift of the vertical perfs, there are no perfs in the bottom margin.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



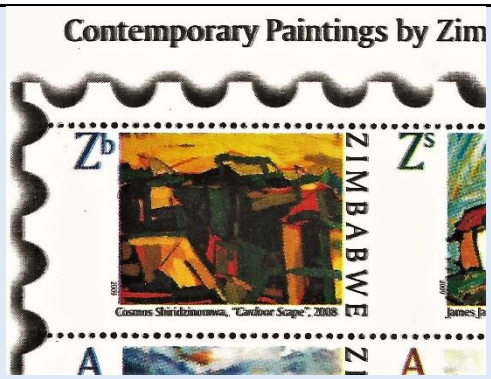
Miniature sheet: Horizontal perfs only, downward movement into top of painting.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



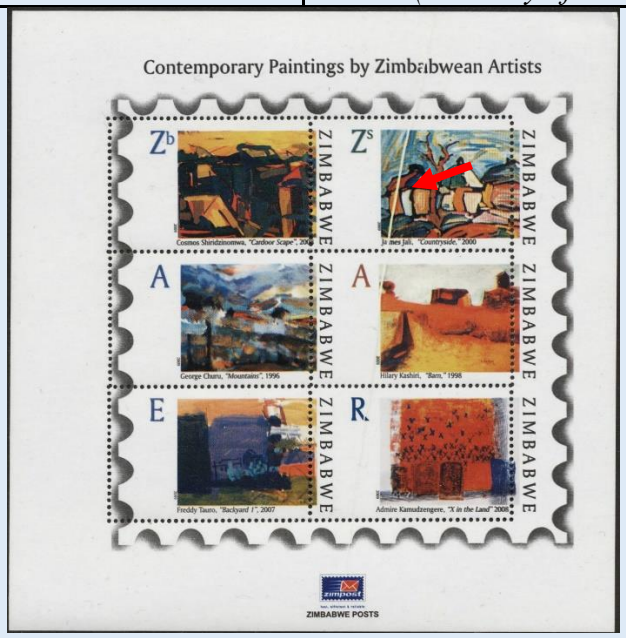
Miniature sheet: Horizontal perfs only, across the sheet with increasingly steep angle.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Miniature sheet: Doubling of black printing
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Miniature sheet: No vertical perforations and doubling of black printing
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



Miniature sheet: Printing crease at angle through the miniature sheet, most noticeable in line through Zs value.
Perforations also shifted to left into the pictures.
(Source eBay)

First Day Cover

No first day covers were made available by the Philatelic Bureau, covers can, however be found with the Harare First Day of Issue canceller on plain covers and Bureau manila stationery.

Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2009

Additions/Changes since December 2023	
8/2024	Further progressive proof – black, magenta & cyan
8/2025	Further partial progressive proof – black & magenta