

## UCSD's Grove Gallery to exhibit African stone carvings, April 16-May 17

**April 9, 1996**

Media Contact: Ron Carlson, 534-2021, or Jan Jennings, 534-0361

### UCSD'S GROVE GALLERY TO EXHIBIT AFRICAN STONE CARVINGS

Spirit World, an exhibition of stone carvings from Zimbabwe, Africa, will be on view April 16 through May 17 in the Grove Gallery at the University of California, San Diego.

The more than 30 pieces to be exhibited are from the collection of Julie and Ian Allen of La Jolla, who spend three months each year traveling in Africa and collecting artifacts and artworks.

The stone carvings are by members of Zimbabwe's Shona tribe. According to Zimbabwe native and art collector Ian Allen, the unschooled artisans quarry their own rock and create the stone carvings with primitive hand tools, the most sophisticated being the hammer and chisel. The end result is contemporary, modern, abstracted art forms.

"The Spirit World is the title of the exhibition because the Shona see an image or spirit in the stone they carve," Allen said. "It may be an image that appears in their dreams or a spirit they see directly in the stone."

Zimbabwe, translated literally as "house of stone," is known for the towering rock ruins, including stone carvings, of the Rozwe tribe some 800 years ago. The Shona emerged following the demise of the Rozwe, but whether there is a connection is ripe for speculation, according to Allen.

The pieces in the exhibit range in size from those that can be held in the hand to works two to three feet in height and/or width. Most of the pieces are for sale.

Grove Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free. A reception for Spirit World will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. April 19. The collectors will be present. The public is invited. For further information, call 534-2021.

(April 9, 1996)