

ARINAITWE RIDING ON HIS CREATIVE MIND

BY FRED MUBANDA

To Nicholas Arinaitwe, a creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, but not by the desire to beat others.

Arinaitwe, 50, started an art business seven years ago. His workshops is located at his home in Bunnamwaya-Ngobe, Wakiso district. He is a sculptor.

He trained at Michelangelo College of Creative Art in Kisubi on Entebbe Road. Arinaitwe performed so well that he earned a government sponsorship to Kyambogo University for a degree in industrial art in 2014.

He has created himself a niche in moulding creative motorcycles using ordinary materials. Arinaitwe's love for this craft springs from his passion for motorbikes.

HOW HE STARTED

"As a child, I used to make toy cars using wire mesh, but my father did not like it. He asked me to concentrate on reading," he says.

Now Arinaitwe's father is one of his biggest supporters.

HOW HE DOES IT

Arinaitwe uses scrap pieces such as spoons, bearings, wires, necklaces, rings, tins and plumbing fixtures to create his miniature motorcycles.

The scrap metals collected include copper, steel, lead and aluminum. "I buy them from scrap dealers at sh1,000 per kilogramme, depending on the type of metal," he says.

Arinaitwe adds that he first re-arranges and assembles each piece of metal to make the work precise, then he measures before welding the metals together, eventually bringing the motorcycle to completion.

He designs one or two items a day, depending on the product size. He then sprays them with raisin colour paint for beauty.

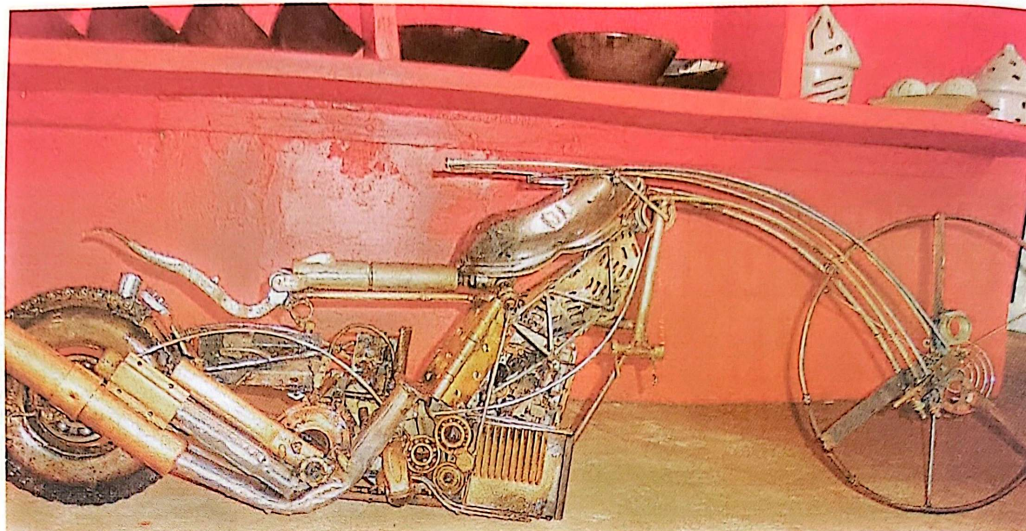
Arinaitwe produces decorative and toy motorcycles for both low and high-income earners. He promotes them through individual customers, galleries and exhibitions.

He says the motorcycles must be kept in clean and dry places to avoid rust.

His sculptures can also be used to decorate offices and homes.

MAKING MONEY

He says the market for his products is good, although he has just started circulating them. The prices are negotiable, ranging from sh150,000 to sh200,000 for small motorcycles, while medium-sized ones cost between



Arinaitwe started the art business seven years ago. The motorbikes cost between sh150,000 and sh1m, depending on the size

sh450,000 and sh800,000. The big ones cost sh1m. "I also sell them in dollars from \$100 for small ones to \$400 for big ones," he says.

GAINS

Arinaitwe's work has enabled him to buy land in Wakiso on Hoima Road. "Through this project, I have made new friends. I have also obtained new skills in innovation. I am able to earn enough to support my family," he says.

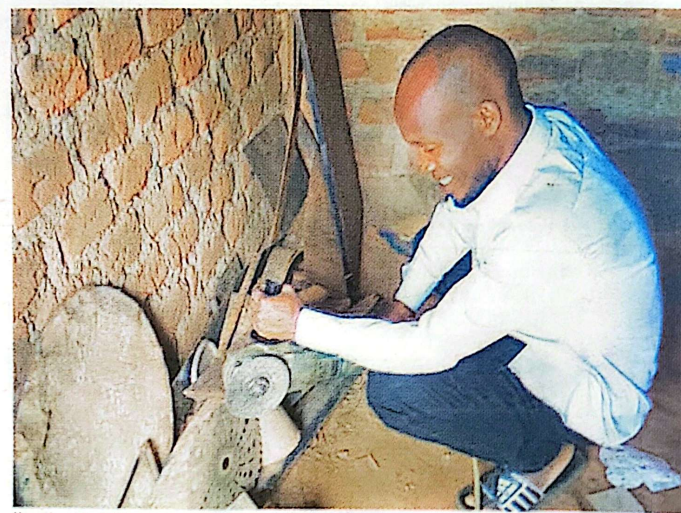
He decries a limited market for innovative products like his, saying artists have to be patient.

PLANS

Arinaitwe plans to design more unique products. He also hopes to pursue a master's degree.

"This will enable me to lecture and, therefore, share my knowledge with young artists," he says.

The innovator says the Government should create a market for creative people like him and support them get customers on the international market. This, he says, will boost innovations in the country and encourage more creative people to work and create employment.



He gets material from scrap metal to create motorbikes

PHOTOS BY FRED MUBANDA