

# Edward Saidi Tingatinga

**His legacy-** When Edward Tingatinga died, his students, relatives and followers of his work set up a co-operative so that they could make and sell Authentic Tingatinga paintings together. The co-operative still exists today to teach and promote Tingatinga art to the world.



## Why study Edward Saidi Tingatinga?

Edward began painting about 1968 in Tanzania. He used low cost materials and his wife sold his paintings, which became popular with European tourists. As his success grew, he attracted a small circle of students learning to imitate his style.

## Biological Information

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| Full Name  | Edward Saidi Tingatinga   |
| Born       | 1931 in Southern Tanzania, Africa.  |
| Family     | Edward was born into a poor family. His mother, Agnes Binti Ntembo was Christian while this father, Saidi Tingatinga, was Muslim. This is why he was given both a Christian and a Muslim name.  |
| Died       | He died in 1972 when he was mistaken for an escaping thief and was shot dead by police.   |
| Education  | He only had 4 years at a primary school.  |
| Later Life | He began to seek creative outlets and additional income first as a member of a musical group, and later as a self-taught artist, painting fanciful and colour animals on small shingles. He also began teaching other people to paint in his style too. |

Edward painted pictures of African wildlife in a simple style, similar to that found on traditional mud huts. The tourists loved his artwork and it became very popular. He used bicycle paint and painted on old, square ceiling tiles.

This type of painting became very popular and lots of artists began imitating Edward Tingatinga's style, it even started being copied in neighbouring countries! The style became known as Tingatinga art.

Edward Tingatinga decided to try and paint pictures to sell to tourists visiting Tanzania. Paintings are usually small so they can be easily transported.

## Key Vocabulary

**Abstract art-** To show objects just in terms of their lines, shapes and colours.

**Colour blocking** - Exploration of taking colours that are opposites on the colour wheel and pairing them together to make interesting and complementary colour combinations.

