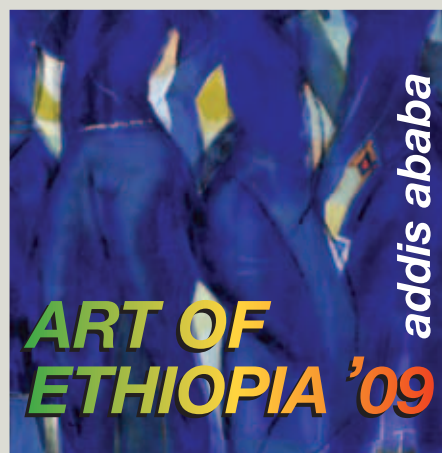


ART OF '09





W

elcome to *Art of Ethiopia 09*, the second exhibition sponsored by the Sheraton Addis. Last year, when we launched the show, we didn't anticipate its popularity. And this year, the show has grown to include many aspiring artists as well as the world-renowned Afewerk Tekle.

As a patron of the arts, we have been acquiring local Ethiopian art for well over ten years. Despite our best efforts, we found it is a struggle to support the young talent of this country. Finally, we found a channel, through the *Art of Ethiopia* annual show.

This year, all artists exhibiting in *Art of Ethiopia 09* have graciously agreed to contribute a portion from the proceeds of their sales towards establishing the Sheraton Addis Art Endowment Fund. This fund will be used to promote Ethiopian artistic talent in Addis and eventually across the country.

To quote Pablo Picasso who cofounded the Cubist movement in the early 20th century, Painting is a blind man's profession. He paints not what he sees, but what he feels, what he tells himself about what he has seen.

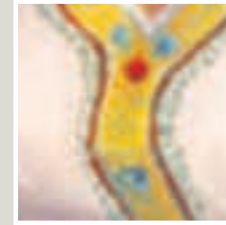
I hope that everyone will be able to appreciate the diversity and the beauty of this exhibition.

Jean Pierre Manigoff
General Manager





Afewerk Tekle



Most Honorable World Laureate Maitre Artist Afewerk Tekle, Ethiopia's leading artist, was born on October 22nd, 1932 in the old historic city of Ankober in Shoa Province, Ethiopia. Sent to England in 1947 to become a mining engineer, his artistic talent prevailed. He was accepted at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London and later went to the Faculty of Fine Art of the University in London, the famous Slade. On the completion of his studies he returned to Addis Ababa where he held a one-man exhibition at the Municipality Hall in 1954. It was the first significant art exhibition in post-war Ethiopia.

After a study tour of various European countries where he made a special study of the Ethiopian Illustrated Manuscripts in the British Library, Bibliotheque National and the Vatican Library, Afewerk returned to Ethiopia and opened his studio in the National Library of Ethiopia.

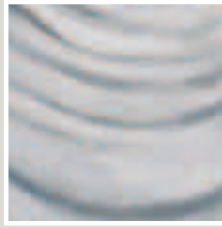
While working on his first commission from the Ethiopian Government: the decoration of St. George's Cathedral, Afewerk worked on murals and mosaics. At the same time, he also realized his first important stained-glass windows for the Military Academy in Harar depicting four Ethiopian military heroes as well as producing his first monumental sculpture. Though his first love was painting, Afewerk established himself as an artist capable of working in different mediums. From 1959 onwards, his drawings, paintings, murals, mosaics, stained-glass windows and sculptures, his designs for stamps, playing cards, posters, flags and national ceremonial dresses all contributed to cement his position as Ethiopia's foremost artist.

The fame of his work is widespread. His well-known Meskel Flower has been exhibited in the USSR, the USA and at the Festival of Negro Arts in 1965 at Dakar, Senegal. His paintings include titles such as Backbones of African Civilization, African Movement, African Atmosphere and African Unity. For Expo 67 in Montreal, Canada, he created Africa's Heritage which is now in the permanent collection of the National Museum of Ethiopia. His 150 sq.m. stained-glass windows confront visitors at the entrance of Africa Hall in the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; it's one of his greatest achievements.

In 1980, the erstwhile USSR awarded him the highest order of Hero of Peace and Friendship, recognizing him as the most significant 20th century artist from the African continent. In 1981, his 'Self Portrait' was the first painting from the African continent to be honoured for inclusion in the permanent collection of the Uffizi Museum, Florence, Italy. In 1997, he won the first prize at the Biennale of Aquitaine, France. At the same time, he was also nominated Laureate of the Biennale. An honour that carries with it the Grand Cordon with the Easel of Gold, and membership of the French International Academy of Arts. Subsequently, in 2000, he was one of the few chosen as World Laureate of the American Biographical Institute at the 27th International Congress Millennium on the Arts and Communication in Washington, D.C.

Now, as a leading artist of the twenty-first century, Afewerk continues to live and work in Addis





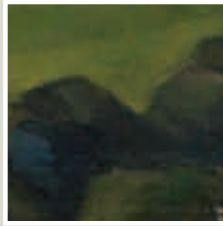
Ale Felege Selam

Ale Felege Selam is a well-known landscape, portrait and mural painter. Born in the Shoa Administrative District in 1924, Ale Felege grew up around a grandfather and uncle who were well-known church painters. He learned the canons of church painting from observing their work and taught himself to draw and paint. Eventually he graduated with distinction from the Addis Ababa Technical School and was selected by Emperor Haile Selassie to be sent abroad for further study.

He spent five years at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, studying studio art and art education. He completed his degree in 1954 and travelled to France and Italy before returning to Addis Ababa where he recruited local high school students to take art classes at his home. His students' enthusiasm inspired him to establish a formal fine arts school. With the Emperor's support, the Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts was founded in 1957/58 with Ale Felege Selam as its first director. He served as director of the school until 1975.

He is now retired and lives in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he remains active as a painter and pursues his hobby of fishing in local rivers and lakes.





W

orku Mammo

Worku Mammo was born in 1935 at Addis Alem, Western Shoa, Ethiopia. Between 1960-62 he attended the Fine Arts School of Addis Ababa. He went on to study Pedagogy, Stage Design and Painting at the Academy of Arts in Leningrad where he also developed an interest in photography and filmmaking. On completion of his studies, he was awarded a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Worku has suffered many mishaps in his life. In 1946, he lost his hands in an accidental explosion of a discarded grenade. In 1978, he lost all his property in a flash flood. Despite these catastrophic personal and material losses, Worku's spirit has never flagged.

He served as Head of the Painting Department, Fine Arts School of Addis Ababa from 1972 to 1995, where he was awarded a Best Teacher award. His work has been exhibited locally and internationally in China, USSR, USA and Sweden.





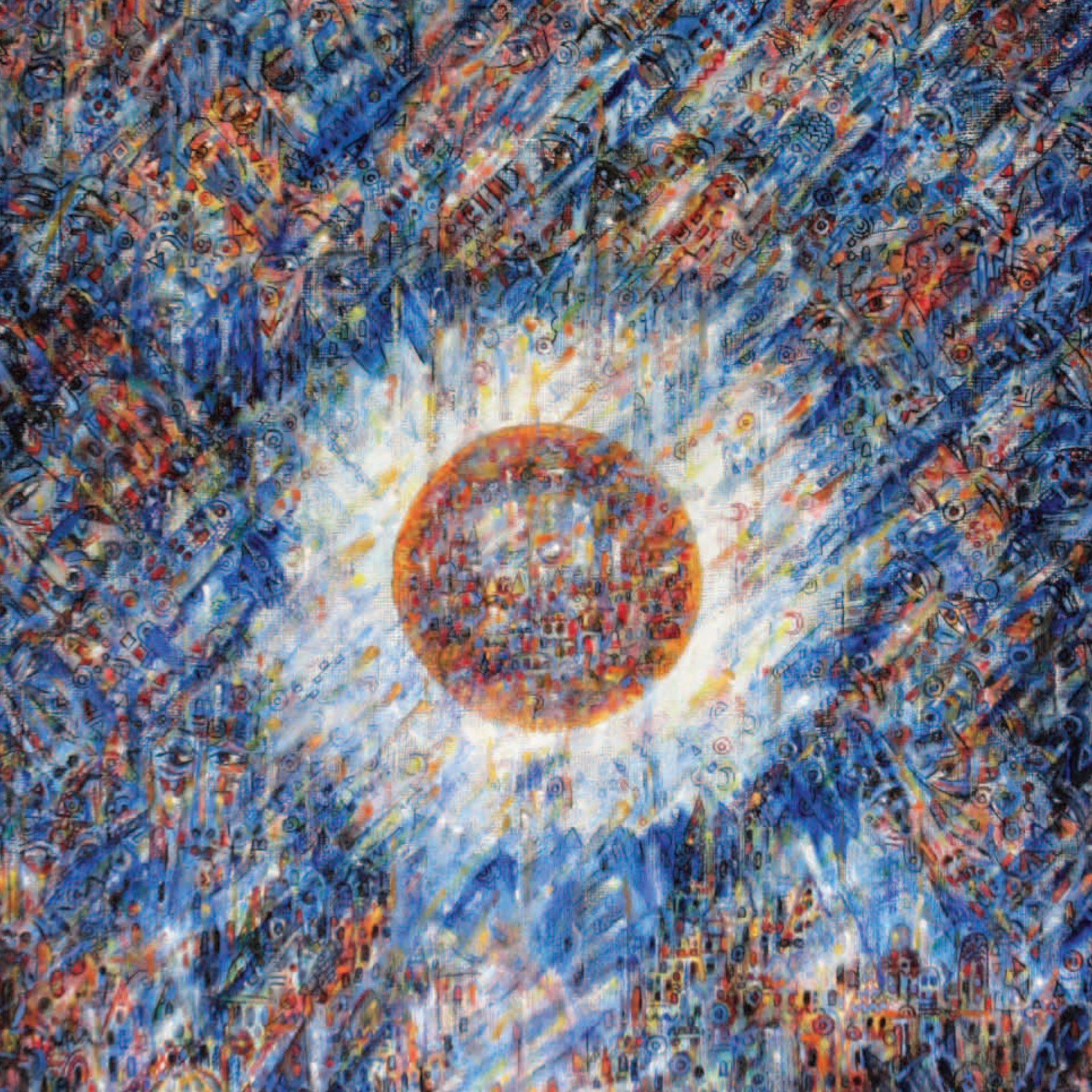
Abdurahman M. Sherif

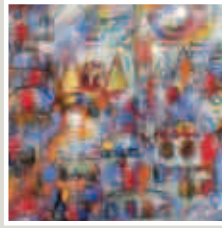
Abdurahman Mohamed Sherif is a painter, teacher and writer. He studied art in Germany on a DAAD Scholarship between 1958-1968 at Staatliche Hochschule fuer Bildende Kuenste, Berlin, where he secured a Meisterschueler (M.A. in Fine Arts). In 1997, he won a DAAD Study Visit Award to the Universitaet der Kuenste in Berlin where he received specialized training in Screen Printing.

Since 1969, he has held solo exhibitions at German School Hall, City Hall Gallery, Africa Hall (E.C.A.), Alliance Ethio-Francaise, German Cultural Institute, Sheraton Addis, Art Space Gallery in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Paa-ya-Paa Gallery in Nairobi, Kenya. As for group exhibitions, his work has been seen in many countries including Ethiopia, Germany, Russia, Nigeria, Czech Republic, Belgium and the USA.

As a teacher, Abdurahman has worked as an Art Instructor at Kotebe Teachers Training Institute (1968-70), and Addis Ababa Fine Arts School (1970-75) where he also served as Director from 1976 to 1993. He is also a Senior Lecturer in Screen Printing, and Lecturer and Department Head of the Visual Communication Department.

He has written several papers that have been presented at various conferences and symposiums nationally and internationally. Also, he has penned articles that have been featured in prestigious publications around the world.

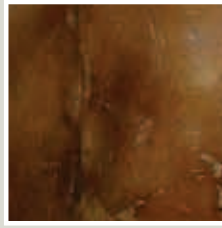
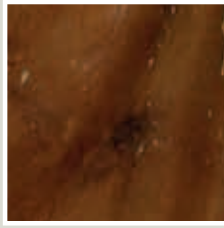




orku Goshu

68-year-old Worku Goshu is a painter with an international background. After studying at the Fine Arts School of Addis Ababa, he went on a scholarship to Poland. Over there, he studied painting and graphics, getting a Master of Art Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow. After marrying his Polish wife Barbara, he returned to Ethiopia to Addis Ababa where they now live and work.





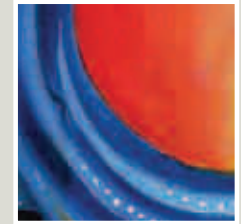
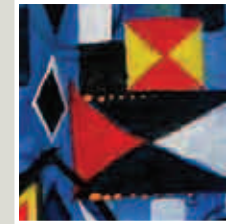
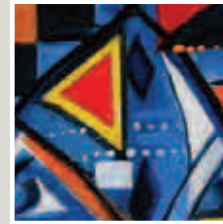
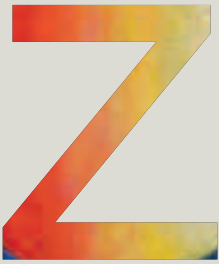
adesse Belaineh

Tadesse Belaineh was born in 1943 in Addis Ababa and studied art at the School of Fine Arts of Addis Ababa from 1958-1962. In 1962, he was a participant at the 2nd International Symposium of Sculptures in Yugoslavia. Tadesse attended further studies in the Repine Academy of Painting, Sculpture & Architecture in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he graduated with a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture. He also trained in modern ceramics in Berlin, Germany, in 1985.

Since 1969, Tadesse has been an Instructor in the School of Fine Arts & Design at Addis Ababa University. He also has been the Head Arts Section at the Ministry of Culture & Sports (1985-88), Head Department of Sculpture (1988-91) and Director (1991-98) at the School of Fine Arts, Addis Ababa. He has held solo and group exhibitions in Ethiopia, Yugoslavia, USSR, Germany, Finland, Italy and the USA.

Besides several national and international certificates, and diploma, he was awarded the Gold Mercury International Award in 1982.





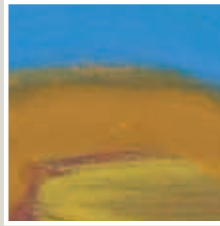
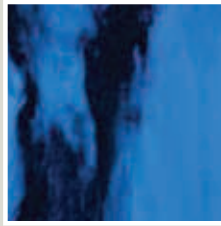
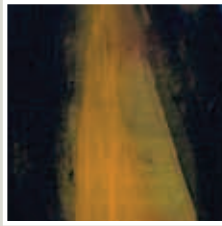
Zerihun Yetmgeta is known as the Transformer of traditional motifs into a modern idiom. His name began to appear in the inner circle of the Addis Ababa art scene in the late 60s and early 70s—a period often referred to as the Renaissance Period of Ethiopian Art. This was the time when his peers began to assert themselves as modern artists and were awarded the Haile Selassie I Prize Trust Award for Fine Arts. Zerihun Yetmgeta emerged from this environment and received his art diploma from Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1967. The same year, he held his first one-man show, which was officially opened by the last Prime Minister of Ethiopia under the reign of the Emperor, Lij Endalkachew Mekonnen. More than half of Zerihun's works at the exhibition were sold the same evening, according to a newspaper report.

The uniqueness of Zerihun's work has since been featured in a number of art books and other publications. Many of Zerihun's works reflect the major issues of the nation. As art critic Esseye G. Medhin puts it: "Zerihun was one of the few artists determined to regularly show his work to the Ethiopian public during the 17-year derg rule. He is credited by art critic Elizabeth Biasio as one who has transformed traditional motifs into a modern idiom.

Zerihun uses canvas, skin and wood to express his vision and feelings. His Magic Scroll paintings, framed on pieces of wood from weavers' tools and strips of parchments assembled by him, have become his trademark nationally and internationally. In recognition of his unique art, Zerihun has received several important awards not only as an Ethiopian artist but also as one of Africa's prominent star artists. In 1992, he was awarded the first prize at the prestigious Second Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Art. He also won second prize in the Kenyan Panorama Award of 1994.

Zerihun's works have been displayed in many museums, including the Ethiopian National Museum, University of Zurich, Staatliches Museum für Volkkunde, Michigan University Museum, and Hope College Museum in the United States where he visited as a Guest Lecturer. Zerihun is currently an Instructor of Graphic Art in the institution he graduated from—the Faculty of Fine Arts of Addis Ababa University (AAU).





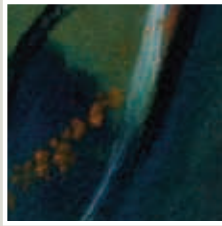
Yohannes Gedamu

Yohannes Gedamu attended the Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts where he graduated in 1967. He worked as an Art Instructor at the Haile Selassie Comprehensive High School, Gondar (1969-71), and Designer at the Ethiopian Advertising and Distribution Agency (1969-71). He was Technical Manager of Addis Ababa Art Agency from 1971-72 before opening his own Rainbow Art Agency and Gallery (1972-75).

In 1975 he moved to Mombasa, Kenya as a Manager & Partner in Artistic Studio (1976-79) before settling down as a full-time artist in Cologne, Germany (1980-98). His works, individually and in a group have been exhibited in prestigious galleries in Ethiopia, Kenya, several German cities, UK, USA and South Africa. Now he lives in Addis Ababa where he is busy as a full-time studio artist.



Daria Hages
2009



esta Hagos

Ethiopia's leading female contemporary artist, Desta Hagos has actively participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Ethiopia, Kenya, USA, Canada, Korea and Denmark.

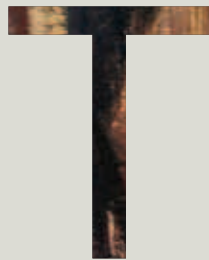
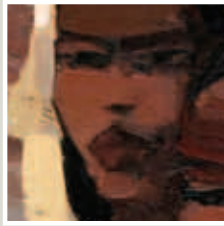
Desta is the first female artist who held a solo exhibition while she was still a student at the Addis Ababa Fine Arts School. The year was 1969, and the exhibition was opened by Princess Hirut Desta. She is also the first female artist in the country to have her work purchased by the Ethiopian National Museum.

Desta Hagos graduated from the Fine Arts School in 1969. She then left for the USA and pursued her studies at the California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. After completing her BA degree in 1973, she came back home to Ethiopia and joined the Ethiopian Tourist Organization where she worked for 10 years. She then transferred to the Ethiopian Tourist Trading Enterprise and served as head of the Artistic Activities Department.

An internationally recognized artist, Desta's paintings are in the hands of many Ethiopian and foreign art collectors. Her works can also be seen in CLU California; Hilton Addis Ababa; UN; UNCHR; Bahridar Museum, Tigray; the National Museum, Addis Ababa and many other places.

Currently, Desta is working full-time in her own studio. She is planning to hold her 42nd Vision & Illusion art exhibition at the Alliance Ethio-Francaise in 2009.



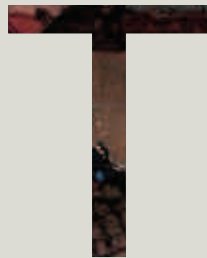
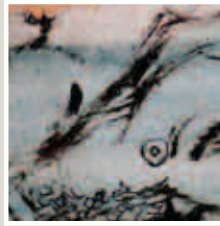


Tadesse Mesfin

Tadesse Mesfin studied at the Fine Arts School of Addis Ababa, and in 1972 graduated with great distinction specializing in painting. Before going for further studies at the Repin Academy of Painting, Architecture & Sculpture in St. Petersburg, he worked as a Stage and Costume Designer at the National Theatre from 1973 to 1977. From the Repin, he graduated in 1984 with a Masters of Fine Arts Degree in Painting (with Honor). Later, Tadesse won a 1997-98 MAAA (Mid-American Arts Alliance) prestigious fellowship to the USA.

Awarded the Ethiopian Fine Arts & Mass Media Prize for Painting in 1998, Tadesse has exhibited his works in solo and group shows in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Nigeria, Tunisia, Czechoslovakia, France, Russia, China and the USA.





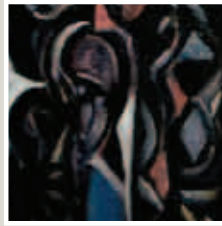
eshome Bekele

Born in Ambo in 1950, Teshome Bekele's remarkable qualities as a painter were manifested at the Fine Arts School, Addis Ababa, where he completed his studies with Great Distinction in Painting and Industrial Design in 1973.

He taught art at a high school in Harar and worked as a display expert at Ethiopian Retail Corporation before giving it up to become an independent artist.

Teshome's artistic drive and fertile imagination serves as a shot in the arm for Ethiopia's contemporary art scene. His artistic techniques and panoramic vision of traditional Ethiopia are manifested as blueprint in his paintings. His paintings are on display at St. George's Gallery and the National Museum of Addis Ababa. And his works have been exhibited since 1970 in different Ethiopian cities, and in France, Switzerland and Canada.



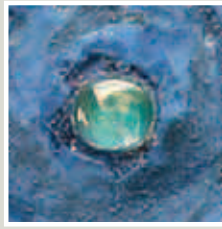
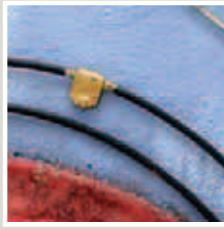


Tibebe Terffa

Born in 1948 in the walled city of Harar, Tibebe Terffa graduated from the Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts and Design in 1973. Apart from his skill as a painter, Tibebe was well-known as one of the founders of the Sixteen Young Artists Association, a group formed with the aim of staging exhibitions around the country.

Tibebe worked as an Art Instructor in Harar before moving to Addis Ababa to work as illustrator. Since 1984 he has been working as a studio artist from his residence in Addis Ababa. His solo exhibitions have been featured at several art centres in Addis Ababa, and internationally in Madrid, Washington, Toronto and Winnipeg.





shetu Tiruneh

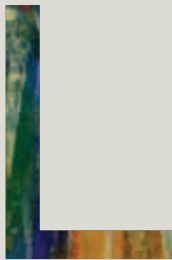
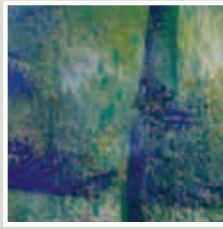
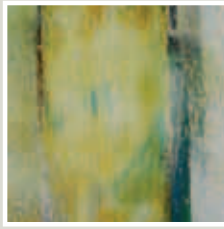
Born in 1952 in Addis Ababa, Eshetu Tiruneh is a Master of Fine Arts (MFA with Honors) from the Moscow State Academy of Fine Arts. He also holds a Diploma with Great Distinction from the Addis Ababa Fine Arts School.

Currently, Founder and Director of the Enlightenment Art Academy, Eshetu has worn several professional hats in a long and distinguished career: Head of the Cultural Creative Art Department at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; Team Leader of Fine Arts and Senior Expert of Visual Arts at the Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs; Instructor (painting and drawing) at Addis Ababa Fine Arts School; and Stage Designer and Poster Arts at Hager Fikir Theatre to name a few.

Along with holding two-man and solo exhibitions, he has been a part of group exhibitions in Ethiopia and abroad in Nigeria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Russia, China and the USA. His works can be seen in Addis Ababa City Museum, National Museum, British Council and African Union Medical Centre in Addis Ababa.

A designer of repute, he has designed stage designs and posters for several theatrical plays and book and magazine covers; as well as being a contributor of illustrations and cartoons. He has several emblems, logos and trademarks to his name. Also, Eshetu has widely written on art in different journals, educational material in Amharic along presenting research papers on different art-related subjects.





Lulseged Retta

Born in 1952, Lulseged Retta graduated from the Addis Ababa Fine Arts School with a Diploma in Painting. Later, after further studies at Academy of Art Repina in Leningrad, he graduated with an M.F.A. Degree (Very Great Distinction) in 1986.

Prior to working as a full-time studio artist, Lulseged worked as a Stage Designer and Head of Art Section at Hager Fikir Theatre (1977-79), Head of Artistic Activity Department at the Ethiopian Tourist Trading Enterprise [ETTE] (1987-96), and Senior Artist for Production (Technical Division) as well as Head of the Commercial Art Department, ETTE (1995-96).

Lulseged's mission is to modernize traditional Ethiopian painting. His works have featured in solo and group exhibitions in Addis Ababa, Leningrad, Moscow, Washington D.C., Florida, Los Angeles, Osaka, Djibouti, Geneva, Cairo and South Africa. Some of his works are on permanent display in the Academy of Art Repina, Sheraton Addis and in private collections around the globe.

Several national and international magazines have covered Lulseged's life and works. The artist himself has frequently lectured and presented papers on different subjects related to Ethiopian art.





ezgebu Tesema

Mezgebu Tesema was born in June 1960 at Enewary Town, Northern Shoa Administrative Region. A graduate of the School of Fine Arts, Addis Ababa, he won a scholarship for further studies at the Repin Academy of Painting, Architecture & Sculpture in St. Petersburg, Russia where he received his MA degree in Fine Arts.

He returned to Ethiopia and became art Instructor in Painting and Drawing at the School of Fine Arts. Later, he served a seven-year stint (1996-2003) as Head of the Painting Department, and in 2000 became a lecturer. At the invitation of The Japan Foundation to the African Art Symposium 2001, he did a tour of Japan as a source person for study programs in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto and Hiroshima.

Besides numerous group art shows in Ethiopia, Mezgebu has held solo exhibitions at the National Museum and in the Alliance Ethio-Francaise Gallery. He has also exhibited his works in Russia, China, Germany and the USA.



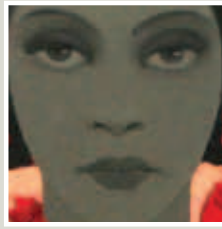
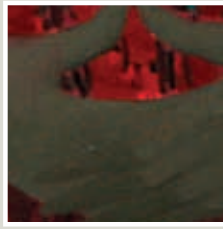
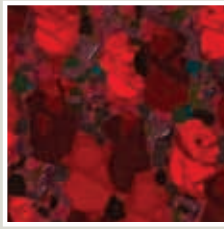


uzie Awol

Muzie Awol was born in 1964 in Addis Ababa. Muzie majored in Sculpture and Painting at the School of Fine Art & Design (1978-83) where he got a Diploma Certificate. Also, he is a graduate of the Kiev Art Academy, USSR, studying there from 1984 to 1991. He majored in Sculpture, graduating with an MFA degree.

He has held solo exhibitions in Bonn and Kiev and has participated in several exhibitions with the 'Dimension Group' in Ethiopia. Apart from lecturing on Sculpture, Drawing and Art Display, Muzie is a Director of the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts & Design.





G

etahun Assefa

Getahun Assefa studied painting, sculpture and graphics at the Fine Arts School of Addis Ababa. Graduating in 1987, he majored in sculpture and holds a Diploma with great Distinction. To further extend his education, he went to Russia in 1989 to study at Moscow State Academic Fine Arts Institute. He specialized in monumental painting (Mural Art), receiving a Master of Fine Arts with Honors degree in 1995. In Moscow, he also studied 2D and 3D computer graphic design.

From June 1997 to 2001 he worked at Ethiopian Television as the Head of the Art and Craft department. Since December 2001 he has been working at Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design as a full-time Instructor of Monumental Painting; he also heads the department.

In 2005, he created a sculpture with mosaic work, graffito, gypsum decoration and photographs for the interior of Wolayta Sodo Town. He created another large-scale monumental sculpture combining mosaic work and digital artwork for the exterior of the Sidama Cultural Hall in Awassa town.

He has participated in exhibitions in Moscow and Addis Ababa, and his works are on display in Moscow, Addis Ababa, and as well as in private collections in England, Italy, Panama, Austria and the USA to name a few.

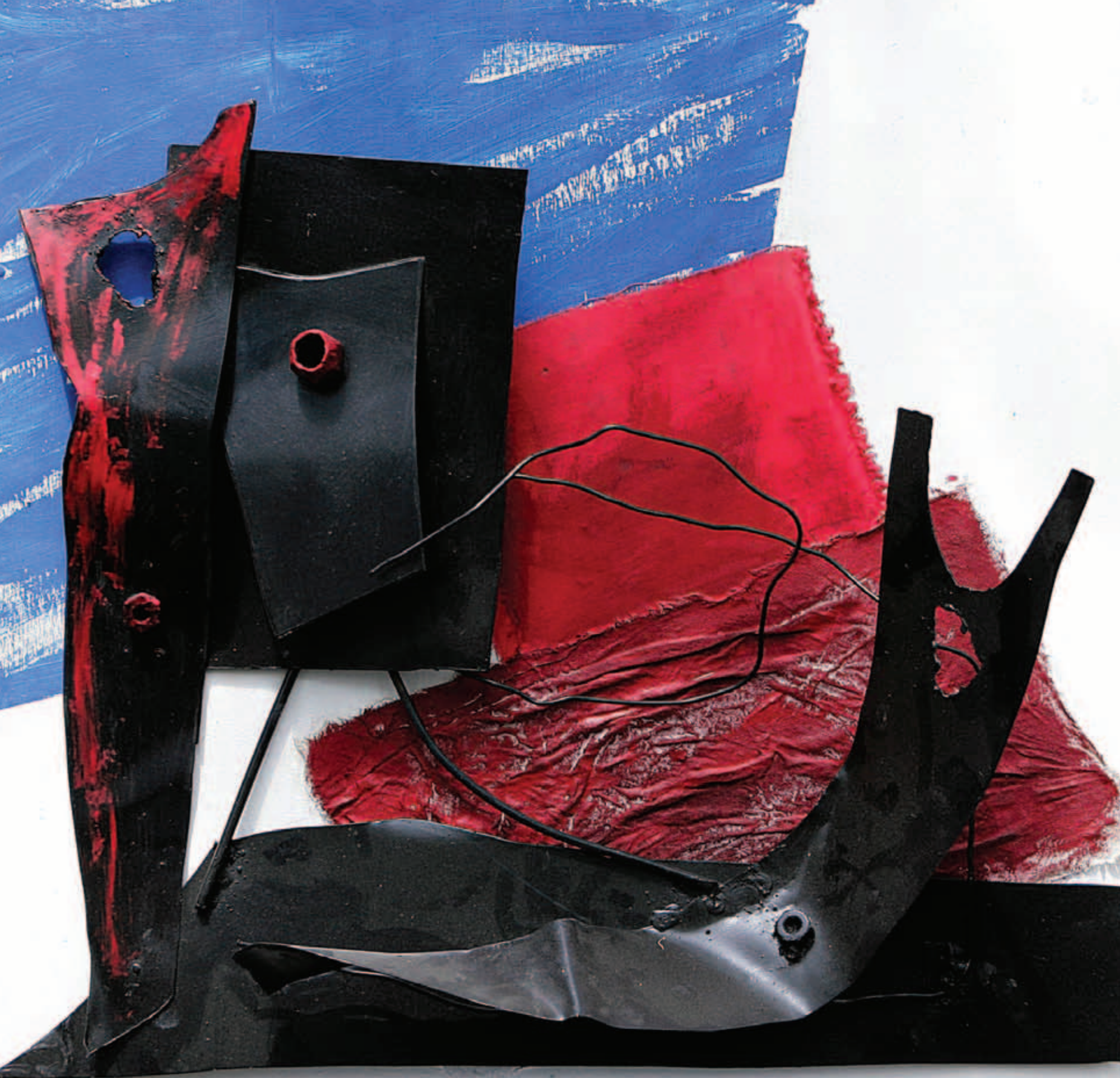


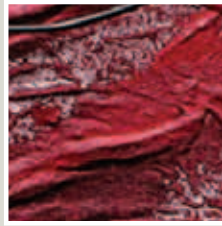


B

israt Shibabaw

Bisrat Shibabaw is a teacher at Addis Ababa Fine Arts School, the same place where she first received her art education. A graduate of St. Petersburg Academy of Arts, Russia with a Master's degree, Bisrat's work has been exhibited locally and abroad in France, China and the USA.

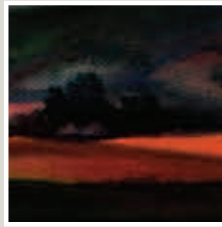




emessie Gurmu

Demessie Gurmu graduated from the School of Fine Arts in Sculpture in 1988. His singular artistic passion in life is sculpture. His works have featured in group shows since 1991; his solo exhibitions have been showcased at several galleries in Addis Ababa since 2000.



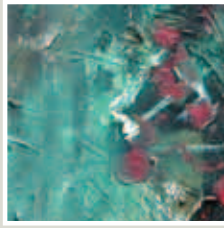


byalew Assefa

Abyalew Assefa graduated with great distinction in Graphic Design from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts in 1991. He also attended Piedcrow School in Kenya, where he studied illustration and magazine publishing. In a career spanning 17 years, he has launched more than 25 solo and numerous group exhibitions.

Recently, he has begun to present his paintings in themes. The themes he has worked with are: Light and Shadow, Reconciliation with Nature, Casual, and Passion for Light. Their subjects are reflections of his concern and philosophy in art, for humanity and the natural environment. Currently, he is preparing to launch a solo exhibition with the theme: 'System: Voices of Light.'



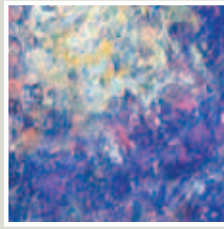
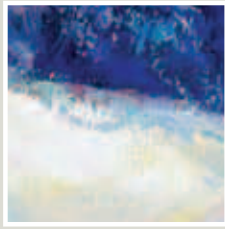


aniel Taye

Born on 5th January 1968, Daniel Taye lives and works in Addis Ababa. He graduated with distinction from the Painting Department of the Fine Arts School of Addis Ababa in 1990.

From 1991 to 1993, he worked for the Ministry of Mining on the Gold Mine Documentation Project. His work has been exhibited at various locations in Ethiopia: National Museum and Goethe Institute in 1994, Suzan Art Gallery in 1998, Kennedy Library at the University of Addis Ababa in 1998 and 2000, Asni Gallery in 1998 and 1999, Goshu Gallery and Lela Gallery in 1999, Suzan Art Gallery and Lela Art Gallery in 2001. Outside the country, his work has been exhibited in Holland and the USA.





G

izachew Kebede

Gizachew Kebede graduated with distinction from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts in 1994. At the same school, he underwent two years of training in the field of Painting and Mural Art, once again graduating with distinction.

He has participated in more than 40 exhibitions in Ethiopia, Ireland, Tanzania, South Africa and the USA. He donated a painting titled *Fighting With The Self* to the Ethiopian National Museum.



Dawit Ader
1998



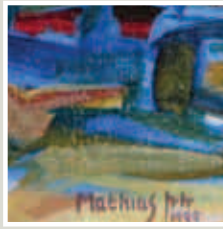
awit Abebe

Born in Addis Ababa in 1979, Dawit Abebe graduated from Addis Ababa Fine Arts School in 2001. Since then, he has been a full-time artist at Habesha Art Studio. Dawit seeks inspiration from dreams to create his art. He paints from the subconscious - flowers, clocks, women and scenes of life. Dawit believes, First, it is important to know yourself, your family, your country, then to extend knowledge to the world.

Dawit has had several solo and group shows at Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Lela Art Gallery, Habesha Art Studio and the French Embassy. Also, he was involved in several multicultural artists residencies, and in different projects with UNICEF and UNFPA.



Mathias 1999



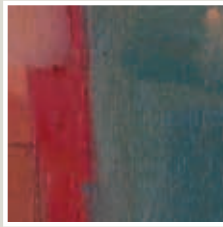
athias Lulu

Mathias Lulu was born in Harare (East of Ethiopia) in 1974. A full-time artist at Habesha Art Studio, Mathias is a graduate of the Addis Ababa Fine Arts School (2001).

As an artist, Mathias mostly is inspired by his feelings concerning human life, natural life and life in general. Apart from painting, he loves to work with wood. He has worked on different projects with UNICEF and UNFPA. Apart from being a part of multicultural residencies, Mathias's work has been featured in several group exhibitions in Ethiopia at Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Habesha Art Studio and the French Embassy.



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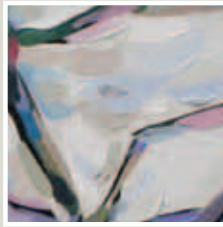
Yosef Lule

Born in Assela in 1977, Yosef graduated from Addis Ababa Fine Arts School in 2001. A full-time artist at Habesha Art Studio, he also lived and painted for a year in the South of France.

Yosef has worked on several projects for UNICEF and UNFPA and has been a member of several multicultural artists' residencies. His work has been displayed in solo shows and group exhibitions in Ethiopia at Alliance Ethio-Francaise, National Theatre Art Gallery, Habesha Art Studio, French Embassy, France, Switzerland and the USA.

In his words, It is important that an artist keeps his own way, own style, and grows on it. He derives inspiration from daily life and from his travels around the world. He strongly believes that he has to bring happiness through his paintings, and not sadness.





erkneh Bezu

Born in 1978, Werkneh Bezu lives in Addis Ababa. A graduate from the Fine Arts School 2001 batch, Werkneh lives life as a part of his thought process, which in his words is: easy, tasty and with joy.

He once was told - If you look after children, angels will look after you. This inspired him to make two movies for children based on Ethiopian culture and natural themes. Werkneh has had several solo and group shows in Ethiopia at Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Habesha Art Studio and the French Embassy. Also, he was involved in multi-cultural artists residencies, and in different projects with UNICEF and UNFPA.





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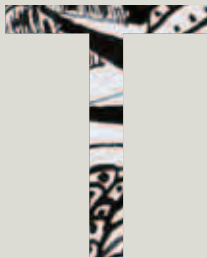
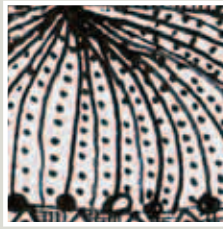
ereje Demissie

Born on 20th May, 1979, Dereje Demissie Welde Georgies graduated from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design with distinction in 2002. He began his career as a Mosaic Artist at Boston Day Spa, Addis Ababa in 2003 followed by a stint as an Instructor at Mat Fine Art Academy.

He won first prize in 1992 in the International Poster Contest on Population and the Environment; and first prize in 2002 from the Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University in an UNICEF HIV/AIDS Youth Art competition.

Since 2001, Dereje has exhibited his work at many leading galleries in Ethiopia, Sudan University of Science and Technology College of Fine Applied Art + Workshop, Khartoum and at GTZ's head office in Ecsborn, Germany.





Tamrat Gezahegne

Born in Addis Ababa in 1977, Tamrat Gezahegne studied art at the Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts and Design where he graduated in Painting in 2000 with great Distinction.

He has held many solo and group exhibitions and his work has been featured at several art centres in the city including Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Children Village and Asni Art Village. Abroad, his works have been exhibited in Florida and Madrid.





skinder Maffi

A self-taught painter who finds inspiration in the observations of daily life, Alex (Eskinder) Maffi was born in Paris in 1967 but grew up in Addis Ababa. A graduate of Geneva Academy of Art and Design, Alex demonstrated an ability to draw and paint from a very early age. After many years of professional services in different international organizations, Alex today works as a freelance Graphic Designer and Web Developer in Switzerland.

Alex holds a lifelong fascination for Ethiopian writings. His current work displays a contemporary style of calligraphy, and is based on a mixed technique of graphic art and painting. His work has been featured in different European cities: Paris, Lyon, Geneva and Zurich.

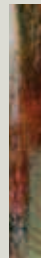




erima Ahmed

Kerima Ahmed graduated from the Addis Ababa University of Fine Art and Design School with a Diploma in Painting. Apart from studying computer graphics, she learned Ethiopian language and literature at Addis Ababa University.

Her work has been exhibited in several group exhibitions in Ethiopia since 1998 at several prestigious locations including Lela Art Gallery, Alliance Ethio-Francaise and the Ethiopian National Museum; and abroad in Sudan, Djibouti and the Netherlands.



would like to express my joy at being asked once again to prepare this wonderful art exhibition. There are many reasons why I m tremendously excited about Art of Ethiopia 09. One is that it gives us artists an opportunity to come together to showcase our skills and selves. And moreover, because of the involvement of the Fathers of Ethiopian Art: Artist Ale Felege Selam and honoured Laureate Maitre Artist Afework Tekle, and of course, famous and upcoming young artists. Also, I see the exhibition as a stage where art patrons can see the professional growth and high standards of Ethiopian art.

Art of Ethiopia 09 showcases the work of artists from different age groups as well as different levels of skill. In short, it is the performance of three generations. It displays the insights, the research, and the variety of skills the artists have attained through influences from home and abroad. Though the works differ in style and content, the exhibition is a means of showing our unity in diversity.

Thanks are in order to the Sheraton Addis Hotel Manager, Mr. Jean Pierre Manigoff whose uncompromising vision and unbridled enthusiasm made this exhibition possible.

Equally, thanks to Mr. Omar Carrera, who has been with me from the very beginning of this endeavour, rendering unequivocal support along with sacrificing personal time to make the show a reality.

Last but not the least, a thank you to the Sheraton Addis team. You are the reason why we are able to share our pride and joy at Art of Ethiopia 09.

On behalf of the Artists,

Lulseged Retta
September 2009



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