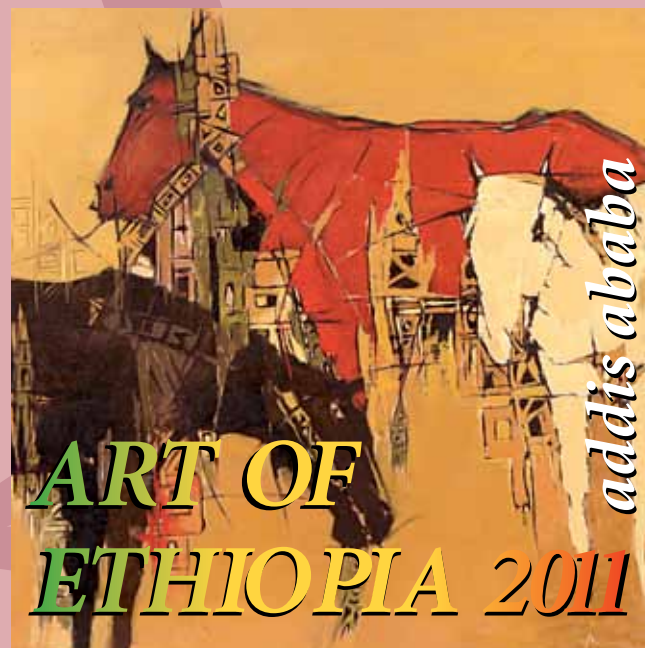


www.artofethiopia.com



**ART OF
ETHIOPIA 2011**

addis ababa





Artist Name : Muluken Debebe

Title : Discussion

Medium : Oil on canvas

Size : 12cm x 54cm

Description : Three contradicted horses are ready to talk about something or each other. It's clearly seen by their direction, colour, and character (body language). In addition, there is a contentious pattern, constructed from Amharic alphabets.

These contradictions reconcile and become a form of harmony and stability.

AO
E₂₀₁₁

FEATURED ARTISTS

Abdurahman M. Sherif

Abyalew Assefa

Addis Gezehagn

Afera Teklu

Alemayehu Biratu

Amira Alamary

Ashenafe Mestika

Bisrat Shibabaw

Daniel Taye

Dawit Abebe

Desta Hagos

Eskinder Mafti

Fasil Assefa

Getahun Assefa

Gizachew Kebede

Habtamu Mekonen

Hana Yilma

Hanan Mohamed

Joseph Habtemariam

Kebreab Demeke

Kerima Ahmed

Kohan Kevorkian

Leykun Girma

Lulseged Retta

Merikokeb Berhanu

Muluken Debebe

Nitsusew Terefe

Ousman Hassen

Seyoum Ayalew

Sofia Kifle

Tadesse Mesfin

Teferi Mekonnen

Tesfaye Assefa

Tesfaye Bekele

Teshome Bekele

Tewodros Hagos

Wondwossen Beyene

Worku Goshu

Wosene Kosrof

Yacob Bekele

Yitagesu Mengia

Yosef Lule

Zerihun Yetmgeta

AO
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The Fourth annual Art of Ethiopia 2011 show, sponsored and curated by the Sheraton Addis, will showcase works by a new generation of talented Ethiopian artists.

Over the years, civilisations have defined themselves in many ways, be it science, literature or art. Ethiopia's artists have played an important role in defining the culture and traditions of this great country. The Sheraton Addis has been a patron of Ethiopian art since the hotel's opening in 1998. Indigenous elements of Ethiopian design can be found throughout the hotel and more visibly, in the permanent art collection which is on public display.

This year, we have launched a dedicated website for the Art of Ethiopia show - www.artofethiopia.com. The site will allow visitors to learn about the show's history, view and purchase previous artworks and receive updates about upcoming shows.

This year's artists will continue to generously contribute a portion of their proceeds towards the Sheraton Addis Art Endowment Fund, which supports the development of artistic endeavours in Ethiopia. Thanks to the proceeds raised from the last two shows, a lithography printing press was donated to the Addis Ababa School of Fine Art.

As Vincent Van Gogh once said, "I dream of painting and then I paint my dream." The Art of Ethiopia is one such dream for us. We trust our selection enriches your experience of the arts and your appreciation of the Fourth annual Art of Ethiopia 2011 show.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Manigoff R". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'M' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jean Pierre Manigoff, R
General Manager

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THE ART OF ETHIOPIA 2011

The Art of Ethiopia 2011 is the Fourth annual art exhibition to be organised by the Sheraton Addis, who have done a commendable job in providing a platform to showcase the best of Ethiopia's culture and heritage. Over the years, we have had the privilege of witnessing Ethiopia's brightest artists showcase their work to an appreciative public.

I developed a fondness for art very early on in life. After studying realistic painting at the Dubai International Arts Centre, I went on to study Art in London, before coming back to teach Art at the Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre. Over the next 20 years, I had the distinct privilege of exhibiting my work in Europe, the Middle East and the USA, as well as at charity exhibitions for the Al Noor Centre for Children with Special Needs.

My long-standing fascination with art continues to this day, and I am utterly captivated by the intriguing works on display at the latest installment of this exhibition, which captures the imagination as effortlessly as it captures the rawness and beauty of Ethiopia.

A big thank you goes out to Jean Pierre Manigoff, Omar Khoso Carrera, Lulseged Retta and the entire Sheraton Addis team for making all this possible for the fourth consecutive year. We hope you enjoy the show.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marina Emphietzi-Harris'.

Marina Emphietzi-Harris
Curator
Art of Ethiopia 2011

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ART OF ETHIOPIA (LOOKING BACK!)

In 2008, the very first 'Art of Ethiopia' exhibition was unveiled at the Lalibela Ballroom of the Sheraton Addis. In the two annual shows that followed, an entire spectrum of art in various forms by over 40 different artists was showcased to the public.

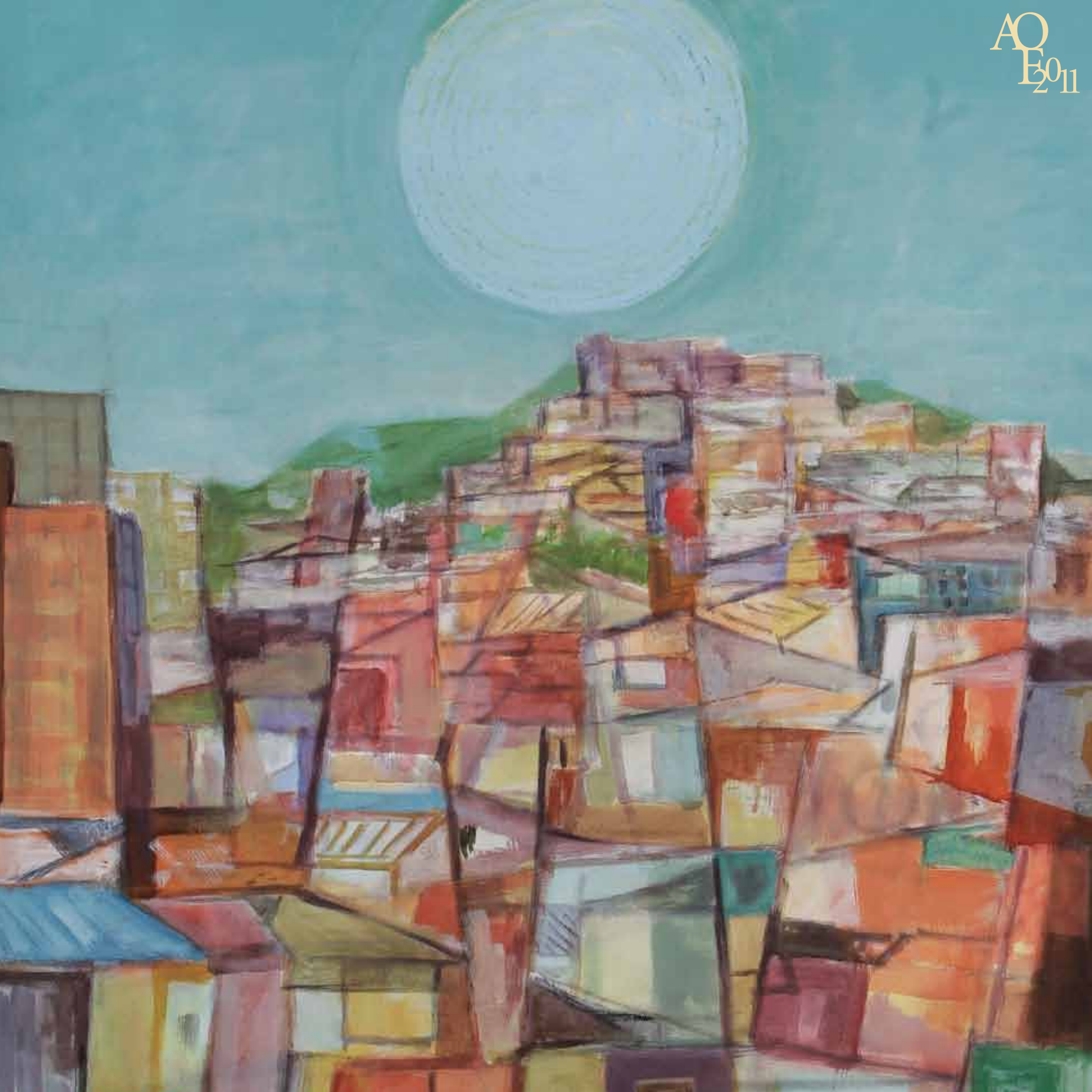
The overwhelming success of these shows was due to the exceptional support of the entire Sheraton Addis team, particularly that of Mr. Jean Pierre Manigoff, General Manager and Mr. Omar Khoso Carrera, Area Director of Sales & Marketing, East & South Africa, who helped ensure that the exhibitions were on par with international standards. All associated expenses for the shows were generously covered by the hotel. This in turn encouraged all the participating artists to donate a percentage of the proceeds from their sales to the Sheraton Addis Art Endowment Fund to support art projects in the city. This contribution will help fund the next generation of artists.

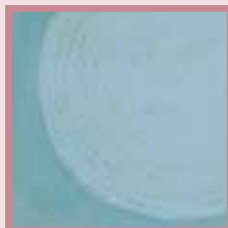
These annual exhibitions elevate the cultural standards of our beloved city, Addis Ababa, and continue to attract local and international students, art enthusiasts and dealers year after year. Overall, 'Art of Ethiopia' has served to energise a long-dormant sector, and is certain to leave a positive impact on the minds of even our youngest art students.

THANK YOU SHERATON ADDIS!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lulseged Retta'.

Lulseged Retta
Coordinator





ABDURAHMAN M. SHERIF

A world-renowned painter, teacher and writer, Abdurahman Mohamed Sherif was educated at Berlin's Staatliche Hochschule Fuer Bildende Kuenste through a DAAD scholarship. He completed his Master's in Fine Arts in 1968, earning him the title of Meisterschueler. A year later, he began showcasing his work at solo and group exhibitions in Ethiopia and in other countries including Belgium, the Former Czechoslovakia, Germany, Nigeria, USA and Russia.

He worked as an Art Instructor at the Kotebe Teachers' Training Institute for two years until 1970. He then joined the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, and was made its Director in 1975. He remained in this post until 1993. Apart from being a Senior Lecturer in Screen Printing, he held additional responsibilities as a Lecturer and Department Head of the Visual Communication Department.

In 1997, he received another DAAD grant. This Study Visit Award brought him to the Universitaet der Kuenste in Berlin, where he received specialised training in Screen Printing. He is the author of numerous papers that have been presented at international conferences and symposiums, and has penned articles for prestigious publications around the world.





ABYALEW ASSEFA

Abyalew Assefa has received many accolades during his 17-year professional career as an artist. He graduated with Great Distinction in Graphic Art from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 1991. He attended the Pied Crow School in Kenya where he studied Illustration and Magazine Publishing. He was declared Environmental Ambassador of Lake Awassa by the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR). Over the years, his work has graced over 25 solo exhibitions and numerous group exhibitions.

His recent exhibitions focus on themes such as Light and Shadow, Reconciliation with Nature, Casual and Passion For Light. The themes in his work reflect his concerns and philosophy regarding art, humanity and the natural environment. His latest solo exhibition revolves around the theme of Love and Sustainable Environment.





ADDIS GEZEHAGN

Addis Gezehagn was born in 1978 in Addis Ababa. He was educated in Art at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design. After graduating in 2001, he worked as a Full-time artist at the Ethiopiawi Art Studio.

The key to the variety in his art is his ability to draw inspiration from many diverse sources. Deriving ideas from his subconscious, his work is a reflection of life, depicting both live and inanimate objects. To date, he has held a number of solo and group exhibitions in Ethiopia and various other countries.





AFERA TEKLU

Afera Teklu was born in Gonder, and graduated From the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2002. A year after finishing his formal education, he began his career as a Studio Artist at the Kiran Art Studio.

Most of his works have been displayed locally. Of the dozen major exhibitions that he has participated in, he takes particular pride in having had his art showcased at the Economic Commission For Africa and the Alliance Ethio-Francaise. His work has also been exhibited at the Irish Embassy, the Greek Club and at various hotels in Addis Ababa.





ALEMAYEHU BIRATU

Alemayehu Biratu was born in Addis Ababa in 1985. He pursued a BFA in Sculpture from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design from 2005 - 2008, and exhibited his art there along with 25 graduating students in July 2008, and at the Hawassa Pinna Hotel in 2010. He went on to complete a Certificate Course in Community Development, Management and Administration at the Rejoice Africa Voluntary Institution in 2009.

He also enrolled himself for numerous Arts-based courses such as Graphic Art, Industrial Design, Stage Design, Photography, Ceramics, Ethiopian Traditional Painting and Renaissance & Baroque Art. He has been working as an Art Teacher at the Hawassa College of Teacher Education since September 2008.





AMIRA ALAMARY

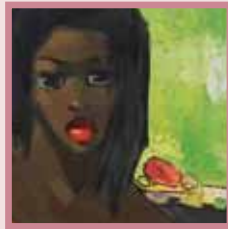
Amira Ali Alamary began her Art education at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, and graduated with a Diploma in Painting in 1999. She went on to study Web Design, Graphics and Multimedia in India, before moving to Canada to study English till August, 2006. She remained in Canada to work as a Graphic Designer till 2009.

She served as the Commissioner to the Yemeni Contemporary Art to O in 1995, and was a member of the Supreme Committee for the Yemeni Visual Art First in 1999. She has been a Founding member of the Yemen Art Association (2000), Contemporary Art Group (2001), and Atelier Sana'a (2006), located in Beit Al-Habari. She also served as the Head of Atelier Sana'a, and conducted workshops in that capacity with artists from Britain and Germany. She became a member of The Alberta Society of Artists in 2011.

Her work has been displayed at numerous exhibitions, including:

- 1999 - Art Exhibition in Imperial Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2001 - Art Exhibition in French Cultural Centre in Sana'a, Yemen
- 2002 - Art Exhibition in French Cultural Centre in Sana'a, Yemen
- 2011 - Art Exhibition titled "HomeLess" in Sharjah, UAE





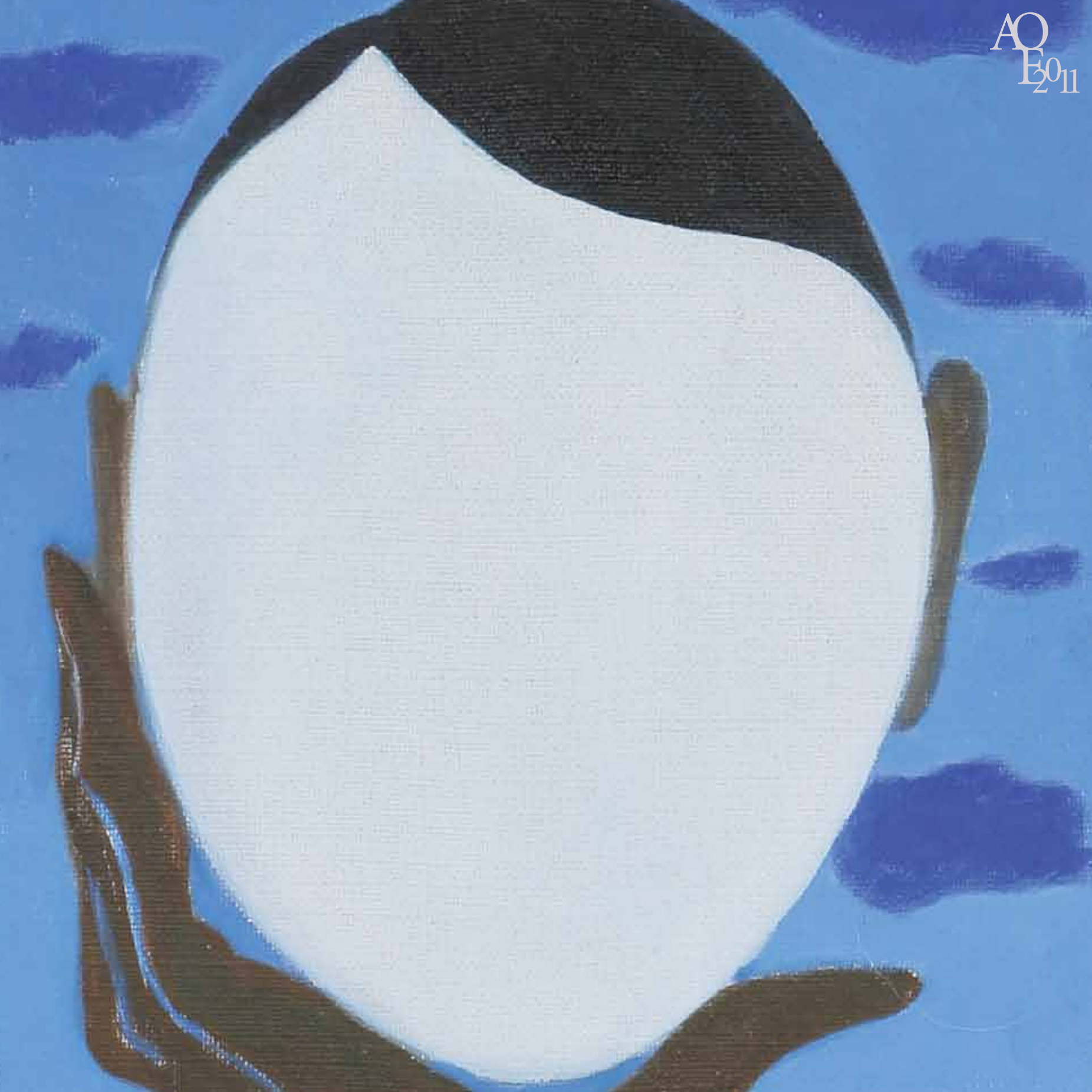
ASHENAFE MESTIKA

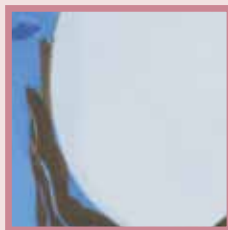
Ashenafe Mestika was born in 1987. After finishing several Certificate Courses in Drawing, Painting and Sculpture from the Abyssinia Fine Arts & Vocational Training Centre in Addis Ababa, he went on to obtain a Certificate from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2007.

In 2010, he completed a Diploma in Fine Arts and Painting at the Entoto Technical and Vocational Education and Training College in Addis Ababa. He exhibited his work in group exhibitions at the ETVET College and the Alliance Ethio-Francaise in 2010.

By showcasing his work along with other great artists at the 'Art of Ethiopia 2011' show at the Sheraton Addis, he hopes to gain more local and international exposure.

His paintings are inspired by the slow, seductive movements young ladies employ when they apply lipstick to attract young men.





BISRAT SHIBABAW

Bisrat Shibabaw was born in Addis Ababa in October, 1965. After finishing her high school education, Bisrat studied for her Diploma at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, where she also currently works as an Instructor.

She completed her Master's Degree at the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts in Russia. She has displayed her work at numerous solo exhibitions, in venues such as the Alliance Ethio-Francaise and Lela Art Gallery. She has also participated in several group exhibitions around the world. Besides being showcased at numerous local venues, her work has also been exhibited at the Harn Museum of Arts, USA (2007), as well as in China and France.





DANIEL TAYE

Daniel Taye was born in 1968. He studied painting at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, and graduated with Distinction in 1990. He worked on the Gold Mine Documentation Project for the Ministry of Mining until 1993.

His art has been exhibited in numerous galleries throughout Ethiopia, as well as in the National Museum, Goethe Institute and Italian Cultural Institute. His work has also been showcased internationally in Holland and the United States. He currently works and resides in Addis Ababa.





DAWIT ABEBE

Dawit Abebe was born in Addis Ababa in 1979. His preferred method of working involves letting images flow from his subconscious, be it flowers, clocks, women or scenes of life. His art is inspired by dreams.

As he puts it, "First, it is important to know yourself, your family, your country, and then to extend that knowledge to the world."

Since his graduation from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001, he has worked full-time at the Habesha Art Studio.

He has displayed his work at several solo and group exhibitions, in venues such as the Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Lela Art Gallery, Habesha Art Studio and the French Embassy. He has also been involved with several multicultural artists' residencies and has worked on projects organised by UNICEF and UNFPA. Dawit held solo exhibitions for his art at the Alliance Ethio-Francaise in 2009, and in Paris in 2010.





DESTA HAGOS

As Ethiopia's leading female contemporary artist, Desta Hagos' work has earned her international acclaim. Her paintings are eagerly sought after by local and international art collectors alike, and they have been displayed at venues such as the California Lutheran University, the United Nations, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the Sheraton Addis Hotel, Tigray, the Bahir Dar Museum, the National Museum in Addis Ababa, as well as in Spain and Denmark.

She studied at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design and became the first female artist to hold a solo exhibition while still a student. She graduated with Distinction in 1969 and left to pursue higher studies at the California Lutheran University in the USA. After completing her Bachelor's Degree in 1973, she returned to Ethiopia.

She worked for the Ethiopian Tourist Organisation for 10 years before moving to the Ethiopian Tourist Trading Enterprise, where she became the Head of the Artistic Activities Department.

She has given several solo and group exhibitions throughout Ethiopia as well as in Djibouti, Canada, Denmark, Kenya, Korea and the United States. Truly a fountain of feminine pride, she earned the distinction of being the first female artist to have her work purchased by the Ethiopian National Museum, by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, Theodor the 2nd, and by the Sheraton Addis. She now owns a studio where she works full-time and makes plans for future exhibitions.





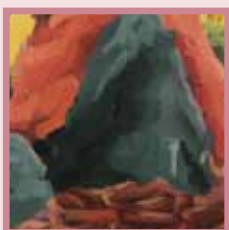
ESKINDER MAFFI

Eskinder (Alex) Maffi was born in Paris in 1967 and grew up in Addis Ababa. While still a child, he demonstrated an affinity for drawing and painting. He is a self-taught painter who finds inspiration for his art by observing daily life.

Eskinder studied Graphic Design at the Geneva Academy of Art and Design. On completing his studies there, he worked on a professional basis for various international organisations. He is currently based in Switzerland and works as a Freelance Graphic Designer / Web Developer and Studio Artist.

His artwork revolves around his lifelong fascination for Ethiopian writings. By mixing Graphic Art and Painting, he brings a modern approach to calligraphy while incorporating a contemporary feel throughout. His intriguing works have been exhibited in many European cities, including Paris, Lyon, Geneva and Zurich.





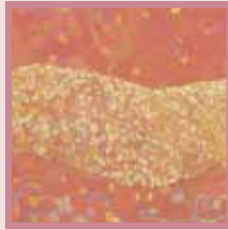
FASIL ASSEFA

Fasil Assefa was born in Addis Ababa on June 19th, 1984. He obtained a Diploma in Drawing and Painting From the Master Fine Arts and Vocational Training Centre in 2002, and completed a Certificate Course From the Abyssinia Fine Arts and Vocational Training Centre in 2003.

He graduated From the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2007, and then worked as an artist From Dec 2005 - March 2007 at the School of Tomorrow, Addis Ababa. His work has been exhibited at local venues such as the Imperial Hotel, the Abyssinia Gallery and the Addis Ababa Museum.

Fasil enjoys writing poetry, and has been acknowledged as an Ambassador For Peace by the Universal Peace Federation and Interreligious and International Federation For World Peace.





GETAHUN ASSEFA

Getahun Assefa studied Painting and Graphics with a major in Sculpture at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, and graduated with Great Distinction in 1987. He then moved to Russia's Moscow State Academic Fine Arts Institute in 1989, where he specialised in Monumental Painting (Mural Art) and completed a Master of Fine Arts Degree with Honours in 1995. He also learned 2D and 3D Computer Graphic Design during his time in Russia.

In June 1997, he began working as the Head of the Arts and Crafts Department at Ethiopian Television. He then moved to the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001, where he became Head of the Monumental Painting Department, a subject he also taught full-time.

He created one of his signature sculptures for the interior of Wolayta Sodo Town in 2005. It was made with a combination of mosaic work, graffiti, gypsum decoration and photographs. He created another large-scale monumental sculpture for the exterior of the Sidama Cultural Hall in Awassa Town, which combined mosaic work and digital artwork.

His works have graced numerous exhibitions around the world, while some are still kept on display in Moscow and Addis Ababa. His art is also a part of many private collections in Ethiopia, Austria, England, Italy, Panama and the USA.





GIZACHEW KEBEDE

Gizachew Kebede completed his Formal Art education at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design and graduated with Distinction in 1994. He then undertook two more years of training in the field of Painting and Mural Art, graduating once again with Distinction.

He has participated in more than 40 art exhibitions in Ethiopia and other countries such as Ireland, South Africa, Tanzania and the USA. One of his paintings, titled 'Fighting With The Self' is on display at the Ethiopian National Museum.





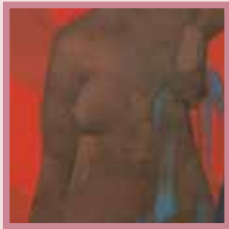
HABTAMU MEKONEN

Habtamu Mekonen was born in Addis Ababa. He completed a course in Fundamental Drawing and Painting at the Russian Centre For Science and Culture in 2002.

He went on to study Fine Arts and Graphic Art at the Entoto Technical and Vocational Education and Training College From 2007 - 2009. He is well-versed in various computer applications such as Photoshop, InDesign and CorelDraw.

He is currently working as a Graphics Designer at Fortune Newspaper.





HANA YILMA

Hana Yilma was born in Arssi Negele in 1986, and studied painting at the Abyssinia School of Art, before graduating from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2010.

She exhibited her art at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre in 2008, and at the Casa da Xuventude de Ourense in Spain in 2010.

She derives inspiration for her paintings from themes such as bathing. Regarding her art, she says, "It can be the sauna or even the steam in bathrooms. I tend to look at outside life... Not only the women who bathe; most of my paintings are concerned with introspection. They make us consider the difference between what we think of ourselves, and what we really are."





HANAN MOHAMED

Hanan Mohamed studied Art at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, and graduated from there in 1996. Her work has been a part of numerous art exhibitions:

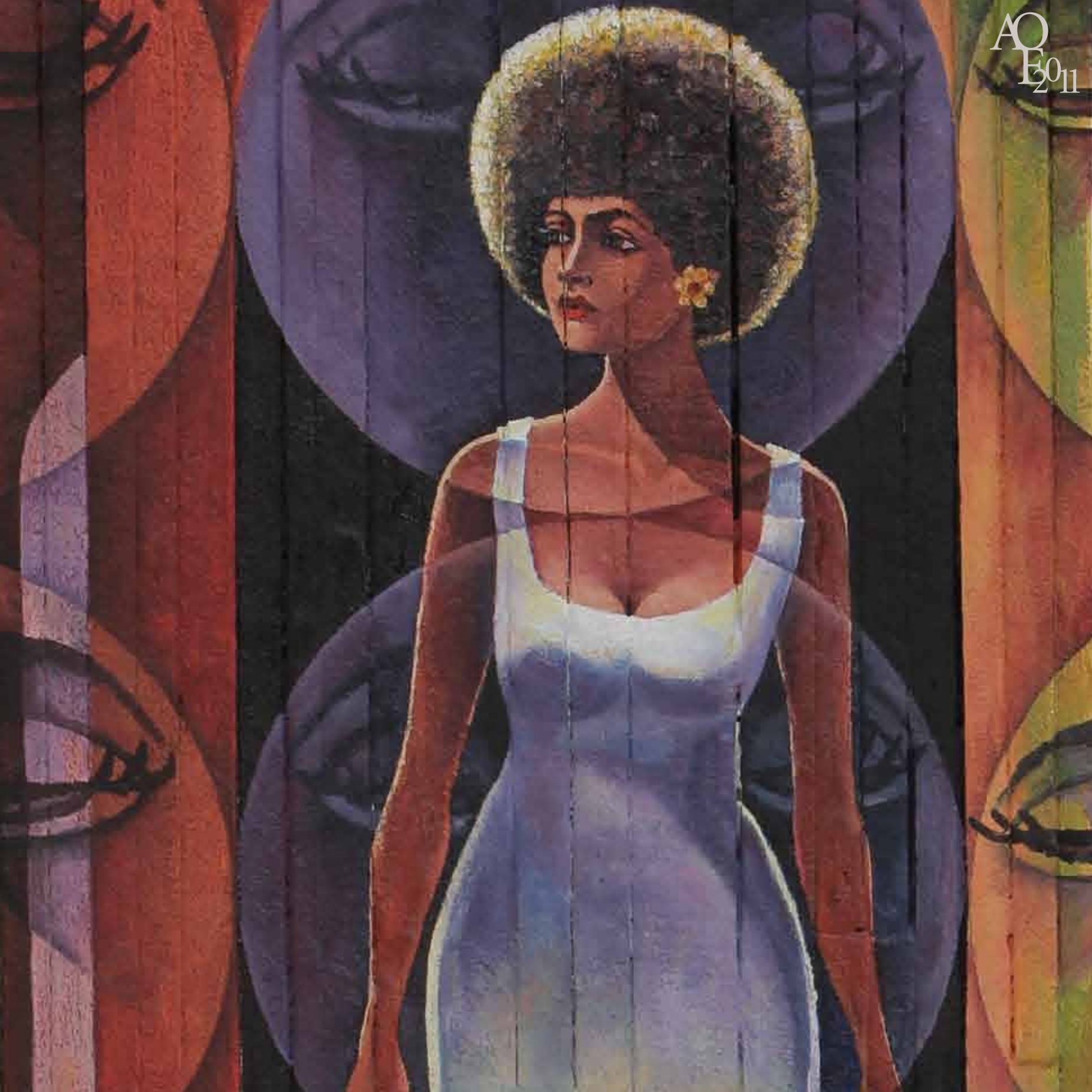
Solo Exhibitions:

- Hilton Hotel - Addis Ababa, 1994 (pre-graduation)
- ECA - Addis Ababa, 1995 (pre-graduation)
- Imperial Hotel - Addis Ababa, 1995 (pre-graduation)
- Movenpick Hotel - Yemen, Sana'a, 2004
- Sheba Hotel - Yemen, Sana'a, 2005

Group Exhibitions:

- ECA - Addis Ababa, 1997
- Sheraton Hotel - Addis Ababa, 2001
- Imperial Hotel - Addis Ababa, 2002 (Ethio-Arab Exhibition)
- Hilton Hotel - Addis Ababa, 2004
- Alem Gallery - Addis Ababa, 2007

She is currently working as a Studio Artist.





JOSEPH HABTEMARIAM

Joseph Habtemariam was born in Addis Ababa, and completed a Bachelor's Degree in Art at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design. He has showcased his art at numerous worldwide exhibitions, including:

- Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design
- Poster Exhibition Alliance Ethio-Francaise
- Pan African Gallery
- Russian Centre For Science & Culture
- Addis Ababa Hilton
- ECA Exhibition Hall
- Greek Club Hall
- German Embassy
- Bulgarian Embassy
- New York City (USA)
- Venezuelan Embassy
- Sidama Lodge Art Gallery
- Juventus Sport Club
- Djibouti
- Zemen Bank
- Tanzania

He is currently working at the Russian Centre For Science and Culture (RCSC) based in Addis Ababa.





KEBREAB DEMEKE

Kebreab Demeke was born in Addis Ababa. He majored in Painting at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design from 2006 - 2010, and was a founding member of the Niten Art Studio in 2007, and the 41 Art Studio in 2010.

His work has been exhibited at:

- Makush Art Gallery, Addis Ababa - 2007
- Listro School of Fine Arts and Design Gallery, Addis Ababa - 2008
- An Art residency programme in Dire Dawa - 2011

Regarding his artistic process, he says, "As I have grown as an artist, my work has become more and more an essential part of my being. I am inspired by colour rather than subject matter, as it is extremely effective in arousing feeling and emotion. I want my spectator to be immersed in colour and shape and from there create their own reality. My abstract works can be seen as whatever the viewer perceives it to be. Each piece then becomes a unique interpretation of each individual's perception."





KERIMA AHMED

Born in 1977 in Addis Ababa, Kerima Ahmed currently works for the Artistic Cooperative responsible for the founding of the Nubia Visual Art Studio. She obtained her Diploma in Painting from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, and stayed on there to complete her Degree in Ethiopian Language & Literature in 2009.

Since 1998, her work has been a part of group exhibitions held at various galleries, museums, embassies and cultural centres in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Austria, the Netherlands and Germany. She held a workshop and exhibition at the Sudan University of Science & Technology College for Fine and Applied Art in 2008, and also held art exhibitions in Djibouti in 2009, at the TuliFanya Gallery in Uganda in 2010, and at the Talisman Gallery in Addis Ababa in 2011.





KOHAR KEVORKIAN

Kohar Kevorkian is an Armenian-Ethiopian artist who was born in 1976. She studied at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design from 1995 to 1997, where she obtained a Certificate in Art and Painting. She is also certified from the Regent Academy of Fine Arts in London, and currently engages in Interior Design and Decorating with her sister through their company "Final Touch".

Kohar studied pottery-making in Armenia during 2008 - 2009, under the supervision of Mr. Samvel Baghdasaryan, Director of the National Centre of Aesthetics, Department of Fine Arts and Dean of the Armenian Open University. She experiments with various art forms such as lamps, stools, home furnishings and tables, as well as with accent pieces like wooden sculptures, mirrors, candle holders, pottery, leather cushions, leather bags and different lighting designs. Her signature piece of art is the classic African comb or 'Mido', which has attracted the interest of many art collectors and galleries. Since 2003, Kohar has displayed her work at five successful solo exhibitions (as well as at the AOE 2010 at the Sheraton Addis), with each show receiving rave reviews.

Her unique art ranges from passionate paintings to 3D wall pieces, channeling what she sees into what she displays. Her art conveys emotion, feeling, energy, feminism, colour and the importance of function.





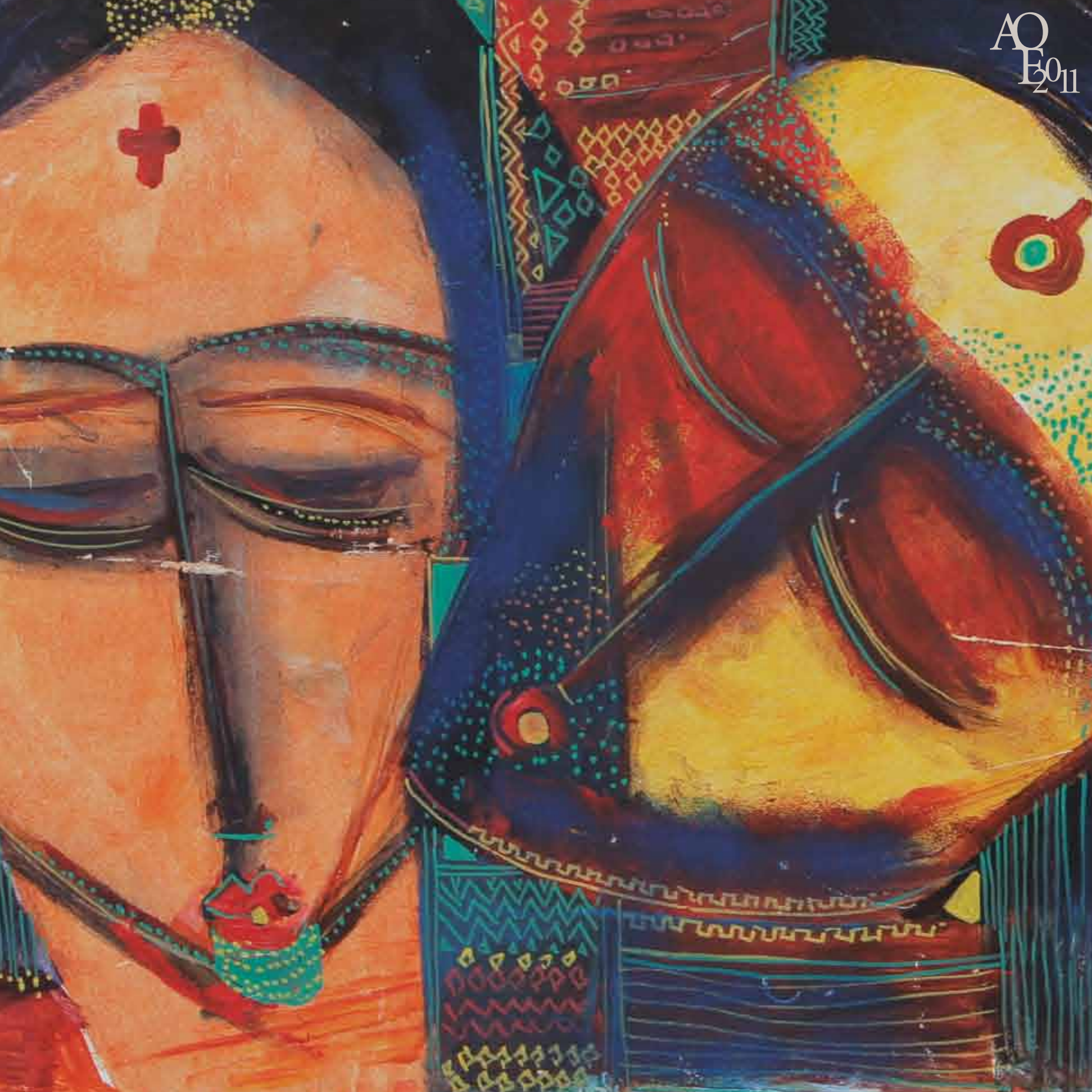
LEYKUN GIRMA

Leykun Girma was born on March 31, 1981 in Addis Ababa. In 2000, while still a high school student, he won a poster contest award organised by the Chemical Society of Ethiopia. He studied at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design From 2002 - 2004 and then majored in Painting From 2007 - 2009 at the Entoto Technical and Vocational Training College of Fine Arts. As a contemporary Ethiopian artist, he is constantly experimenting with different techniques and mediums of painting. He actively participates in various solo and group exhibitions as well as art events.

Selected Exhibitions:

- Habesha Art Gallery - 2004, 2005
- One-man exhibition 'Culture and Environment' at Habesha Art Gallery - 2006
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise - 2007
- 'Free Art Felega II' at the Goethe Institute - 2008
- One-man exhibition 'Green Beauty' at Temnet Le-Heiwot Ethiopia Art Gallery - 2008
- 'Kilos Street Art' organised by Atronus Art Studio - 2009

Leykun believes that "Art is something that makes someone travel on his/her own Free way. I look for inspiration from the environment and use my imagination to create my art." Most of his paintings focus on women, because being raised by his mother helped him understand that women create an indelible impression on life. He loves and respects all women, because according to him, "Women are a source of wisdom and a symbol of wisdom."





LULSEGED RETTA

Lulseged Retta was born in 1952, and has had his life and work featured in various national and international publications over the years.

He received a Diploma in Painting from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design. From 1977 to 1979, he worked as a Stage Designer and as the Head of the Art Section at the Hager Fikir Theatre. He then undertook further studies at the Academy of Art in Repine, St. Petersburg, where he completed his Master of Fine Arts Degree with Very Great Distinction in 1986.

In 1987, he was made the Head of the Artistic Activity Department at the Ethiopian Tourist Trading Enterprise. Additionally, in 1995, he became a Senior Artist for Production (Technical Division) and the Head of the Commercial Art Department. He stayed there until 1996, and then decided to become a full-time Studio Artist.

Lulseged Retta seeks to bring a modern approach to traditional Ethiopian painting. The product of this vision - his work, has been displayed at numerous venues in Addis Ababa, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Washington DC, Florida, Los Angeles, Osaka, Djibouti, Geneva, Cairo and Johannesburg. Some of his works are permanent features at the Academy of Art in St. Petersburg and the Sheraton Addis. His art also features in many private collections worldwide. Lulseged has exhibited his works at Geneva, Switzerland and at the Art of Ethiopia 2008, 2009 & 2010. He has been the Coordinator for the Art of Ethiopia Art Exhibition since 2008.



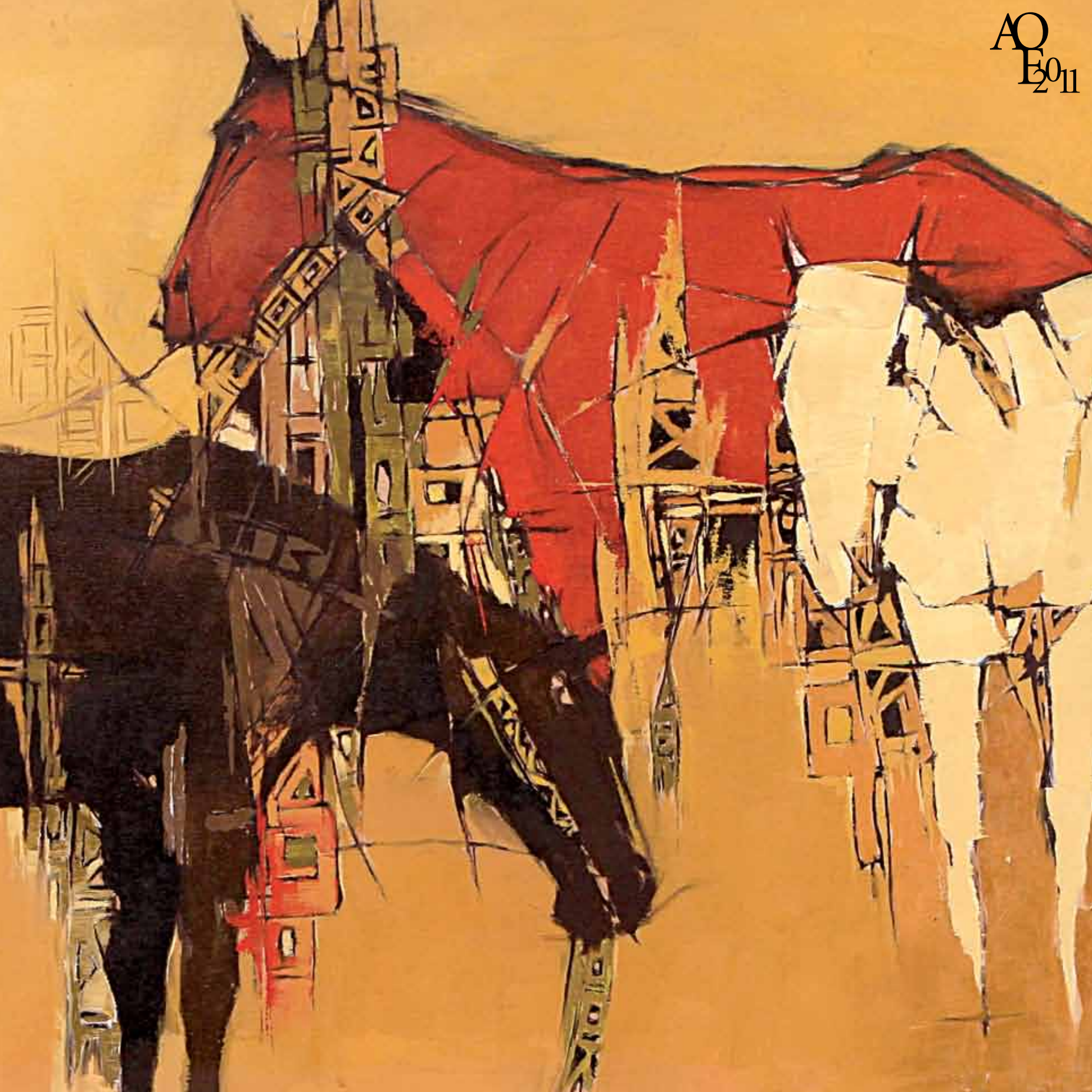


MERIKOKEB BERHANU

Born in Addis Ababa in 1977, Merikokeb Berhanu is one of Ethiopia's most contemporary artists. She enrolled herself at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design and graduated with a Diploma in 2002.

After her studies, she initially worked as a makeup artist at the Hager Fikir Theatre for a year. Over the next ten years, her works were displayed in numerous group exhibitions at the Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Addis Ababa City Hall, National Museum, Lela Art Gallery, Bulgarian Embassy and the Nubia Visual Art Studio. She also conducted a workshop and exhibition at the Sudan University of Science & Technology College for Fine and Applied Art in 2008, and went on to hold another Art Exhibition in Djibouti (2009) and at the Talisman Gallery in Addis Ababa (2011).

She has been commissioned several times for artworks to commemorate specific events. Her alma mater is also known to display her art during various programmes. She created a street painting in Meskel Square with a 'Stop Early Marriage' theme, to commemorate International Women's Day. Having experimented with a variety of art forms, she now works as a Studio Artist.





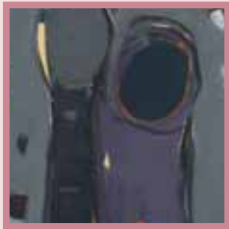
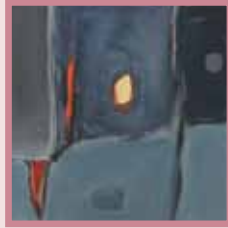
MULUKEN DEBEBE

Muluken Debebe was born on January 29th, 1978, in Methehara. He pursued his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design from 2003 to 2006. His work has been a part of numerous exhibitions:

- Group exhibition at Annual Bazaar programme of the German Church in Addis Ababa - 2002, 2003 & 2004
- Group exhibition at Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design - 2005
- Group exhibition at Alliance Ethio-Francaise - 2006
- Group exhibition at Entoto TVET College Gallery - 2007
- Group exhibition at Alliance Ethio-Francaise - 2009

From 2007 to 2010, he taught Painting, Colour Theory and Composition as an Assistant Lecturer at the Entoto Technical and Vocational Training College of Fine Arts. He currently serves as the Chair of Visual Arts and Graphic Communication at the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture Building Construction & City Development (EIABC). As an artist, Muluken devoted himself to portraying dreamlike images, drawing from his imagination and past experiences. His dramatic and highly idealised paintings often anchored on humans, horses and other creatures confronting death.





NITSUSEW TEREFE

Nitsusew Terefe was born in 1985 in Assela, the south-eastern region of Ethiopia.

Displaying a strong inclination towards art early on in her life, Nitsusew has wholeheartedly dedicated herself to her passion. She took Art courses for two years at the Assela Cultural Promotional Institute and then obtained her Degree in Art from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2009.

Her work has been a part of various group exhibitions, namely:

- Haile Resort in 2010
- Sheraton Addis 'Art of Ethiopia' in 2010
- Addis Ababa National Museum in 2011
- Sidama Lodge Art Gallery in 2011
- Ethiopian National Theatre in 2011

She is currently working as a Full-time Studio Artist.





OUSMAN HASSEN

Ousman Hassen was born in 1986 in Kombolcha, South Wollo. He studied Practical Training at the DFAA For one year in the Field of Photography, and served as the Chairman of the Tamrin Amateur Literature and Journalism Association From 2000 - 2004. He completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Industrial Design at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design on August 5th, 2008.

His work has been a part of various exhibitions, namely:

- South Wollo Kombolcha - 2007
- Group exhibition at German Culture Goethe Institute & Gebre Kristos Desta Centre - 2008
- Group exhibition at the National Theatre of Addis Ababa - 2009
- Habesha Art Gallery - 2010
- Sidama Lodge Art Gallery - 2011

He received an Achievement Award From the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the Field of Fine Art on May 28th, 2008, From President Girma Wolde-Giorgis of Ethiopia.

He has been teaching at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design For the past two years.





SEYOUM AYALEW

Seyoum Ayalew was born on January 10th, 1967. He specialised in Mural Painting at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design From 1988 to 1991. He has been the President of the Ethiopian Visual Artists Association since March 2011.

His work has been exhibited at numerous venues, namely:

- Addis Ababa Museum - 1992
- Lalibela (Roha Hotel) - 1993, 1994 & 1996
- Dessie Culture Centre - 1995
- Bahir Dar (Mulalem Hall) - 1999
- Ireland Embassy - 2001
- Abyssinia Art School - 2002
- Greek Club - 2003
- New York Art Festival - 2004
- Sheraton Addis - 2005
- ECA - 2006
- Hilton Hotel - 2007
- Bulgarian Embassy - 2007
- Venezuelan Embassy - 2008
- Sidama Lodge - 2009
- Juventus Sport Club - 2009
- National Theatre Art Gallery - 2010

Since 2000, he has been working as a Full-time Studio Artist.





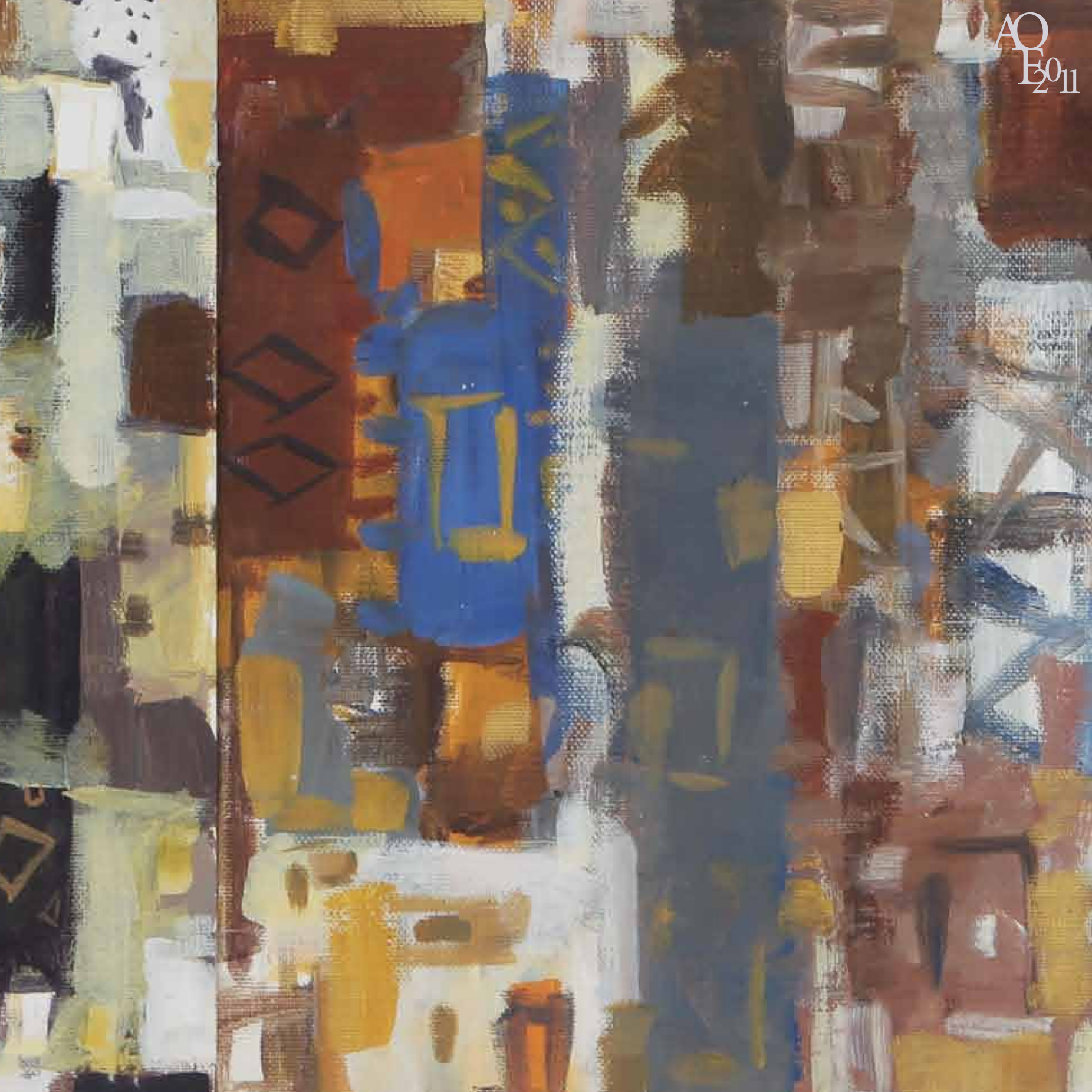
SOFIA KIFLE

Sofia Kifle was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 1982, during the height of Ethiopia's political turmoil, she migrated to the United States to avoid persecution by the Military Socialist regime then in power. She enrolled for the Theatre and Arts Management programme at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia and completed it in 1987. In May 2000, she went on to earn her Master of Fine Arts Degree at Howard University.

Her paintings incorporate a large number of influences and experiences from her life. She draws inspiration from Ethiopian artists such as Skunder Boghossian, Gebre Kristos Desta and Fasil Dawit. Sofia says, "I reflect my roots. I stand intertwined with suspended time and space, willingly listening and looping myself with symbols, myths, rhythm and forms. I am a gypsy who tries to tell eye-ful stories by means of colour, brush strokes, movements, shapes and characters. These stories visualise and portray my story, the stories of the Africans, the stories of the Americans and the stories of the world."

She has been a part of numerous exhibitions, including:

- 2009 One-woman Show - Westfield State College, Westfield, MA
- 2008 One-woman Show - Ayn Studio, Washington DC
- 2007 Group Exhibition - Vital Voices Cape Town, South Africa
- 2005 Group Exhibition - Artists For Fistula, Silver Spring, Maryland





TADESSE MESFIN

Tadesse Mesfin graduated with Great Distinction From the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 1972.

After working as a Stage and Costume Designer For the National Theatre From 1973 to 1977, he decided to continue his higher studies and obtained a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Painting with Honours From the Repin Academy of Painting, Architecture & Sculpture in St. Petersburg in 1984.

In 1998, he won the Mid-American Arts Alliance (MAAA) prestigious Fellowship to the USA. He was awarded the Ethiopian Fine Arts & Mass Media Prize For Painting the Following year.

Tadesse has held solo exhibitions For his work and has been a part of many group exhibitions the world over. His art has been showcased throughout Ethiopia and in other countries including China, Former Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, France, Nigeria, Russia, Tunisia and the United States.

He currently works as an Instructor at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design.





TEFERI MEKONNEN

Teferi Mekonnen was born in Addis Ababa in 1974. He graduated From the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design with a Diploma in 1996 and completed his Degree with Distinction in 2007.

He has been self-employed since then, creating logo designs besides other assignments for various commercial enterprises. He currently operates out of his own studio, catering to individuals, hotels, offices and other organisations.

His work has been showcased around Addis Ababa at several hotels and offices, namely:

- A sculpture for Ethiopian hero Balcha Aba Nefso in Bantu City
- Sidama Lodge in Addis Ababa
- Hotel Mosaic Art Flower Festival in Holleta City

In addition to this, his art is also a part of numerous private collections around the world.





TESFAYE ASSEFA

TesFaye Assefa (TesFu) was born in 1977 in Addis Ababa. He graduated From the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 1999, and From Gage InFormation College in 2009.

TesFaye always had a deep love For art, and stayed dedicated to his choice of profession, always challenging himself and continuing to take part in group exhibitions at various cultural institutes From 1998 onwards.

Since 2005, he has been instrumental in the designing and mounting of mosaic work and monumental sculptures in places such as the Wolayta Cultural Centre in Wolayta Sodo, the Sidama Cultural Hall in Hawassa, Saint Mary's Church in Addis Ababa and The Listro Project at Addis Ababa University.

His work has also been displayed at numerous exhibitions, including:

- Alliance Ethio-Francaise Group Exhibition - 2007
- Lucy Gallery - 2006
- My Flyover Art Centre - 2004
- Zion Art Centre - 2003
- Ethiopian National Museum - 2002
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise Group Exhibition - 2002
- Addis Ababa Ethnographic Museum Group Exhibition - 2000





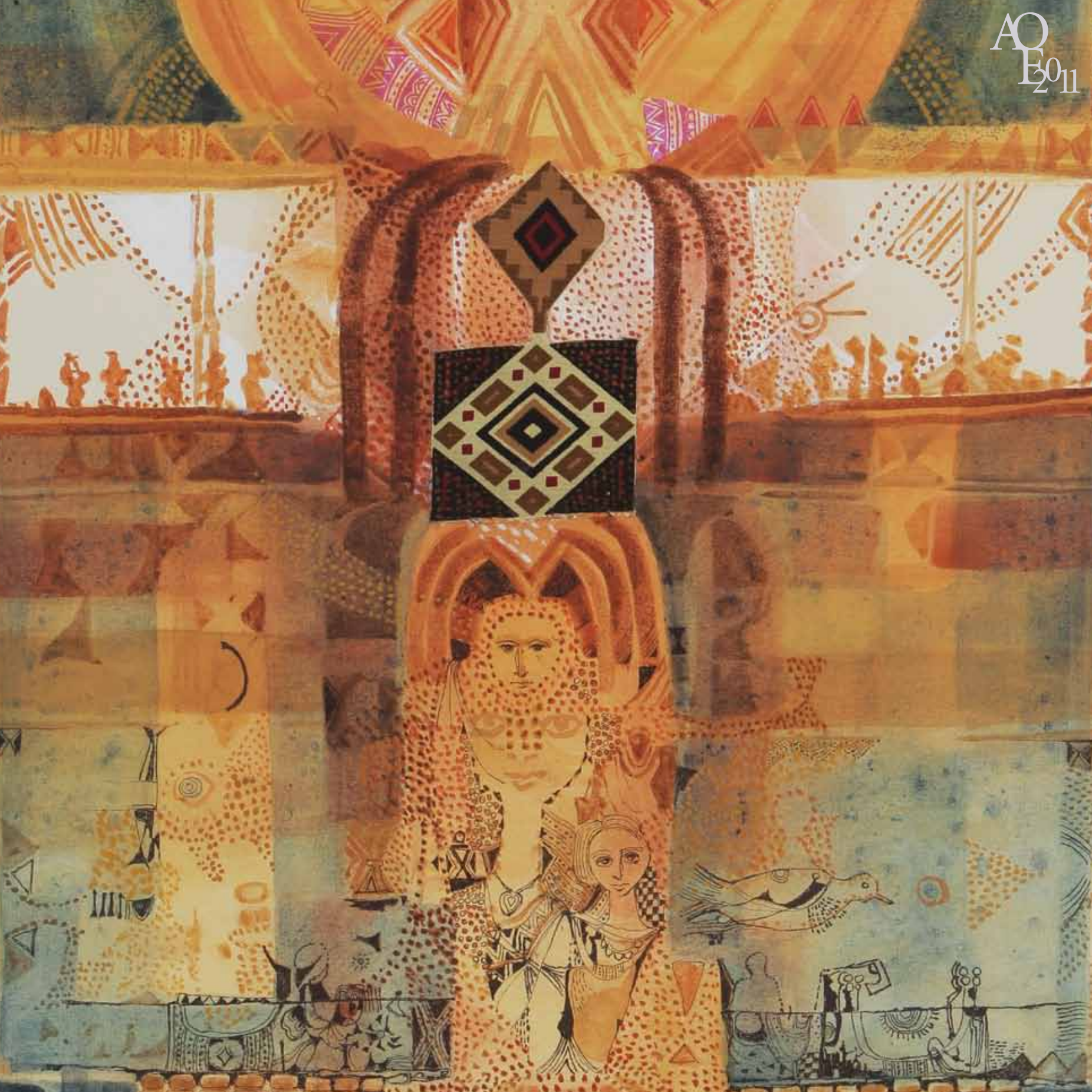
TESFAYE BEKELE

Tesfaye Bekele was born in 1984 in Acheber. At the age of 8, he came to Addis Ababa. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art with Distinction at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design. He further enhanced his talent as an artist while attending the Skunder Boghossian College of Performing and Fine Art, and later on at the Ale School of Fine Art and Design.

Selected exhibitions:

- Economic Commission For Africa (ECA) - 2010
- Ale School of Fine Art and Design - 2010
- Fana Wogi group exhibition at Ethiopian Modern Art Museum - 2011

He is currently a Graduate Assistant at the Ale School of Fine Art and Design.





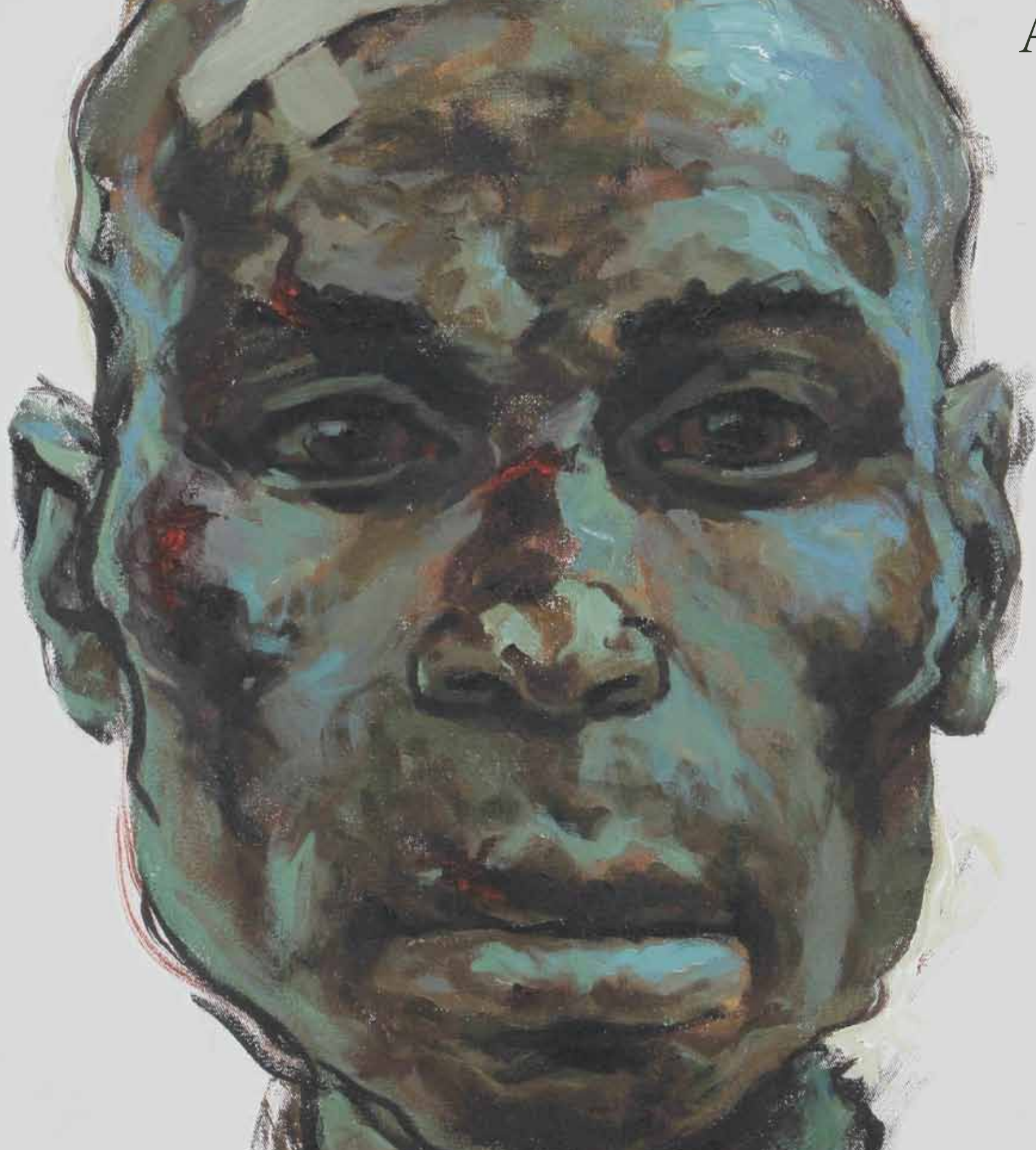
TESHOME BEKELE

Born in Ambo, Ethiopia in 1950, Teshome Bekele displayed remarkable painting abilities as a young student.

He completed his studies at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 1973, where he completed a Degree in Painting & Industrial Design with Great Distinction. On completing his education, he initially taught Art at the Harar High School. He then went on to work as a Display Expert for the Ethiopian Retail Corporation and eventually made the decision to become an independent artist.

To date, he has held exhibitions at various cities in Ethiopia, and internationally in Canada, France and Switzerland. His paintings are displayed at venues such as St. George's Gallery, the Alliance Ethio-Francaise, the German Cultural Institute, the Italian Cultural Institute and the National Museum of Addis Ababa.

His art has been described as being "carefully embedded with modern strokes", and serves as a powerful contribution to Ethiopia's contemporary art scene.





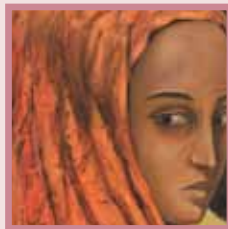
TEWODROS HAGOS

Tewodros Hagos was born in 1974 in Addis Ababa. He graduated From the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 1995. In 1998, Tewodros left to Belgium, where he stayed for over ten years living and working in Antwerp.

Since his return to Addis Ababa, Tewodros has managed to carve out a distinct style and is now regarded as one of the most promising Ethiopian painters of his generation.

He has had his work displayed at numerous solo exhibitions locally, as well as in countries such as Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.





WONDWOSSEN BEYENE

Wondwossen Beyene, a well known artist, was born in Addis Ababa. Wondwossen studied Art at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design and graduated in 1991. Since then, he has held a variety of positions, including a post at the Ministry of Sports & Culture. He also does Freelance Photography & Graphic Design work for several companies in Ethiopia. He works solely from his studio, and has been able to showcase his work locally as well as in the United Kingdom with a great degree of success. His art is a mix of different media; a fusion of sculpture, painting, drawing, mosaic and photography. Some of his work can be found on permanent display at the Sheraton Addis Hotel and Imperial Hotel, while other works are housed in private collections all over the world.

At present, he is the Head of the Art Department at Sandford International School, where he teaches the prestigious IB programme.





WORKU GOSHU

Despite his international background, Worku Goshu remains a genuine Ethiopian artist. He began his Art education at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design before earning a scholarship to the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, Poland. He graduated from there with a Master's Degree in Pure and Applied Graphic Art.

Soon after his marriage, he returned to Ethiopia, and taught at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design for 27 years. Although his exhibitions are rare, the privileged few who have seen his art would agree that it is an experience in itself that serves to open your imagination. His paintings reflect his sources of inspiration - they serve as a constant interpretation of Ethiopia's artistic traditions, yet are still tinged with a modern appeal.

At present, Worku resides in Addis Ababa, where he owns the Goshu Art Gallery along with his wife Barbara.





WOSENE KOSROF

Born in 1950 in the Arat Kilo district of Addis Ababa, Wosene Wonke Kosrof is a contemporary artist who has achieved international recognition for his work.

In 1972, he completed a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts (BFA) with Distinction at the then School of Fine Arts, Addis Ababa. As a Ford Foundation Talent Scholar, he was awarded a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Degree from Howard University, Washington DC in 1980. Over the past four decades, Wosene, as he is known professionally, has created an internationally recognisable artistic signature in his work by being the first contemporary Ethiopian-born artist to use the script - or "Fidel" - of his native Amharic language as the core element in his paintings and sculptures.

Prestigious museums that have his works in their permanent collections include the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art (DC), Newark Museum (NJ), Neuberger Museum (NY), Indianapolis Museum of Art (IN), Birmingham Museum of Art (AL), Fowler Museum of UCLA (CA), Samuel Harn Museum (FL), Fleming Museum (VT), the Völkerkunde Museum, Switzerland, as well as the National Museum of Ethiopia and the City Museum, both in Addis Ababa. His paintings are also housed in many international private and corporate collections.





YACOB BEKELE

Another talented artist from Addis Ababa, Yacob Bekele was born in 1978. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design with a Diploma in Sculpture in 2002.

So far, his work has been exhibited no less than a dozen times in a variety of prestigious locations, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Alliance Ethio-Francaise, the Ethiopian Millennium Celebration and at his very own alma mater, the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design.





YITAGESU MERGIA

Born in 1970, Yitagesu Mergia was born in Addis Ababa. Since graduating from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, he has conducted a number of solo and group art exhibitions at venues that include the Bulgarian Embassy, Greek Community, Italian Cultural Institute, Swedish School, Alliance Ethio-Francaise, National Museum and various hotels throughout Addis Ababa.

His paintings are also on permanent display at the American, Egyptian and German embassies in Addis Ababa.





YOSEF LULE

Born in 1977 in Assela, Ethiopia, Yosef Lule typically draws inspiration for his paintings from daily life, as well as from his own travels around the world. He once moved to the South of France to paint for an entire year. It is his personal conviction that an artist's work should bring about happiness rather than sadness. He also believes in nurturing an original style, saying, "It is important for an artist to maintain his own individual style and develop it further."

He graduated from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001. Since then, he has worked on several projects for UNICEF and UNFPA, and has been a part of several multicultural artists' residencies.

Nationally, his work has been displayed in group exhibitions at the Habesha Art Studio, Alliance Ethio-Francaise and the French Embassy. He has also held solo exhibitions at the National Theatre Art Gallery and the Alliance Ethio-Francaise.

His works have also been showcased internationally in France, Switzerland and the United States. He currently works as a full-time artist at the Habesha Art Studio.





ZERIHUN YETMGETA

Zerihun Yetmgeta has established a trademark with his magic scroll paintings based on weaver's tools and strips of parchment framed on pieces of wood. His unique art form "transforms traditional motifs into a modern idiom", in the words of art critic Elizabeth Biasio.

He hails from what was known as the Renaissance Period of Ethiopian Art. After receiving his Art Diploma from Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1967, he opened his first one-man show to the public. It consisted of a mixture of canvas, skin and wood, and was such a success that half his artworks were sold at the exhibition itself.

Owing to his extraordinary choice of medium, numerous art books and other publications have featured his work. His art boldly tackles major Ethiopian issues, and has been displayed at many museums around the world. He has been recognised not just as an Ethiopian artist, but as a renowned African artist. He won first place at the prestigious Second Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Art in 1992, and secured second place at the Kenyan Panorama Awards in 1994. He is currently a member of the Fine Arts Faculty at Addis Ababa University, where he works as an Instructor of Graphic Art.

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