

art of
ethiopia



2012

addis ababa



In Memoriam



Maitre Afewerk Tekle
22 October, 1932 – 10 April, 2012

Internationally known as the Most Honorable World Laureate Maitre Artist, Afewerk Tekle was born in the historic city of Ankober, Ethiopia in 1932.

He studied in London at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, and then at the Slade School of Fine Art. Although painting was always his first love, he excelled in the use of other mediums. And it was the vast variety of his work, a depiction of African pride and heritage that helped cement his position as Ethiopia's leading contemporary artist.

His work is well recognized in international circles. His 'Self Portrait' is in the permanent collection of the Uffizi Museum in Italy. One of his greatest achievements was the 150 sqm stained glass windows that greet visitors at the entrance of Africa Hall in the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. In addition, his famous 'African Heritage' a semi-abstract painting, hangs in the National Museum in Addis Ababa. Other important works included an Altar Cross for the Royal Chapel in the Tower of London in the UK, the Last Judgment mural in Adigrat Cathedral, Tigray, the Victory of Ethiopia at the Hero Centre in Debre Zeit and the Chalice and the Cross in the Life of the African People.

A man of the African renaissance, Maitre Afewerk Tekle works will continue to inspire artists and art lovers in Ethiopia, Africa and around the world.



Artist Name

Yared Olivelli

Title

A Young Girl With ‘Mudai’

Medium

Mixed media on canvas

Size

70cm x 70cm

Description

A young girl holding ‘Mudai’, a small box made of weaving material which is traditionally used by most Ethiopian ladies to keep in something important. She is waiting with a smile, hoping to receive something that she will keep in her ‘Mudai’.

www

Featured Artists

Abdurahman M. Sherif
Abyalew Assefa
Addis Gezehagn
Afera Teklu
Amanuel G/Michael
Ashenafe Mestika
Behailu Bezabih
Bezawit Wondwosen
Bisrat Shibabaw
Daniel Taye

Dawit Abebe
Desta Hagos
Ermiyas Shiberu
Eskinder (Alex) Maffi
Fasil Assefa
Gashahun Kassahun
Getahun Assefa
Gizachew Kebede
Helene Taddyos
Henok Demissie

Joseph Habtemariam
Kebreab Demeke
Kerima Ahmed
Kohar Kevorkian
Leayne Tilahun
Leykun Girma
Lulseged Retta
Makeda Bizuneh
Merikokeb Berhanu
Mezgebu Tesema

Muluken Debebe
Ousman Hassen
Rediet Sisay
Samuel Hailu
Seyoum Ayalew
Sintayehu Assefa
Sofia Kifle
Tadesse Mesfin
Teferi Mekonnen
Tsfaye Assefa

Teshome Bekele
Tewodros Girma Hailu
Tewodros Hagos
Worku Goshu
Yared Olivelli
Yitagesu Mergia
Yonas Degfa
Yonatan Wondwesen
Yosef Lule
Zerihun Yetemgeta





2012 is a milestone for the Art of Ethiopia show. This year we celebrate the fifth annual Art of Ethiopia show which has been sponsored and curated by the Sheraton Addis. As in previous years, it will showcase works across generations of talented Ethiopian artists.

This year, Ethiopia and the world lost the Most Honorable World Laureate Maitre Artist Afewerk Tekle on April 10, 2012. We pay tribute to his contribution to modern Ethiopian art. He participated in the Art of Ethiopia shows of 2009 and 2010 and continued to be a great supporter of the show. Afewerk, you will be missed.

The appreciation of art is very personal. The usage of artworks to decorate homes, offices and public buildings has long been the tradition but each piece speaks differently to everyone who looks at it. In this show, we present a vast range of styles and mediums. Some will capture your heart and mind while others may evoke strong negative feelings. This is what art is all about – generating an emotional response.

For us at the Sheraton Addis, we have been patronizing arts since the hotel's opening in 1998. Over the years, the hotel has grown its permanent art collection which is on display for the public to appreciate.

The artists featured in this show will be contributing a portion of their proceeds towards the Sheraton Addis Art Endowment Fund as has been the practice for the last three years. In 2012 the funds from previous shows were utilized for equipping the Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts with a lithography printing press. The funds will continue to support the development of artistic endeavors in Ethiopia.

As Henri Matisse once said, 'creativity takes courage'. We, at the Sheraton Addis take courage from the overwhelming response we continue to receive regarding the Art of Ethiopia show and we would like to thank each one of you.

We trust our selection enriches your experience of the arts and your appreciation of the fifth annual Art of Ethiopia 2012 show.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Manigoff' with a stylized flourish and a small 'R' at the end.

Jean Pierre Manigoff, R
General Manager





Greetings,

As the Curator of the 5th Annual Art Festival held once again this year at the Sheraton Hotel, I would like to thank the management of the hotel and say that we are very proud of the spirit of commitment and dedication shown towards the success of the event.

We, on the other hand, continue our efforts to rejuvenate this show and work on introducing new talent and welcoming those who return. Our ultimate goal is to attract more artists but more than anything, we are interested in creating relationships with the artists, following and helping to foster their careers. We try to stimulate their interest and provide experiences and inspiration for them to create and broaden their understanding of art; Ethiopian art in particular.

For the guests, friends of art and staff we hope that the show is as exciting and rewarding for them as it is for us.

We all hope you take pleasure and benefit from your time here by enhancing your knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts.

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

Marina Emphietzi-Harris
Curator
Art of Ethiopia 2012





Reflection

The wonderful achievements of the past 5 years at the Art of Ethiopia bring a sense of joy and pleasure.

We started with eight exhibitors the first year and the following three years saw a dramatic growth in the number of participants from eight to thirty, then forty and finally forty three. Not only had the number of exhibitors grown but also the depth and diversity of the art displayed.

“Art of Ethiopia” attracted giants like the late Laureate Maitre Artist Afewerk Tekle and others to display their masterpieces. The number of visitors started to grow and so did the intensity and artistry of the different displayed pieces. Art pieces were of interest for art lovers, art students, journalists and collectors alike.

A collective social knowledge, understanding, love and respect for art has emerged as part of the culture of our city and our nation.

All this did not come easily. The contribution and support of the Sheraton Addis for Ethiopian art has helped exhibitors achieve great heights. The ever widening scope of the exhibitions in terms of style, form & substance as well as the diversification of thoughts of different schools regarding forms and substance has also grown. As we prepare for the fifth edition of “Art of Ethiopia”, the expectations and aspirations of exhibitors, art students, art collectors, historians and all those involved with the event, are higher than ever.

I would like to extend special thanks to Mr. Jean Pierre Manigoff and Mr. Omar Carrera, and their dedicated team and Sheraton Addis for providing us with the opportunities to display Ethiopian art, contribute 10% of our income for the endowment fund and as responsible citizens, contribute our share of taxes to our government.

Thank you for supporting us,

Lulseged Retta



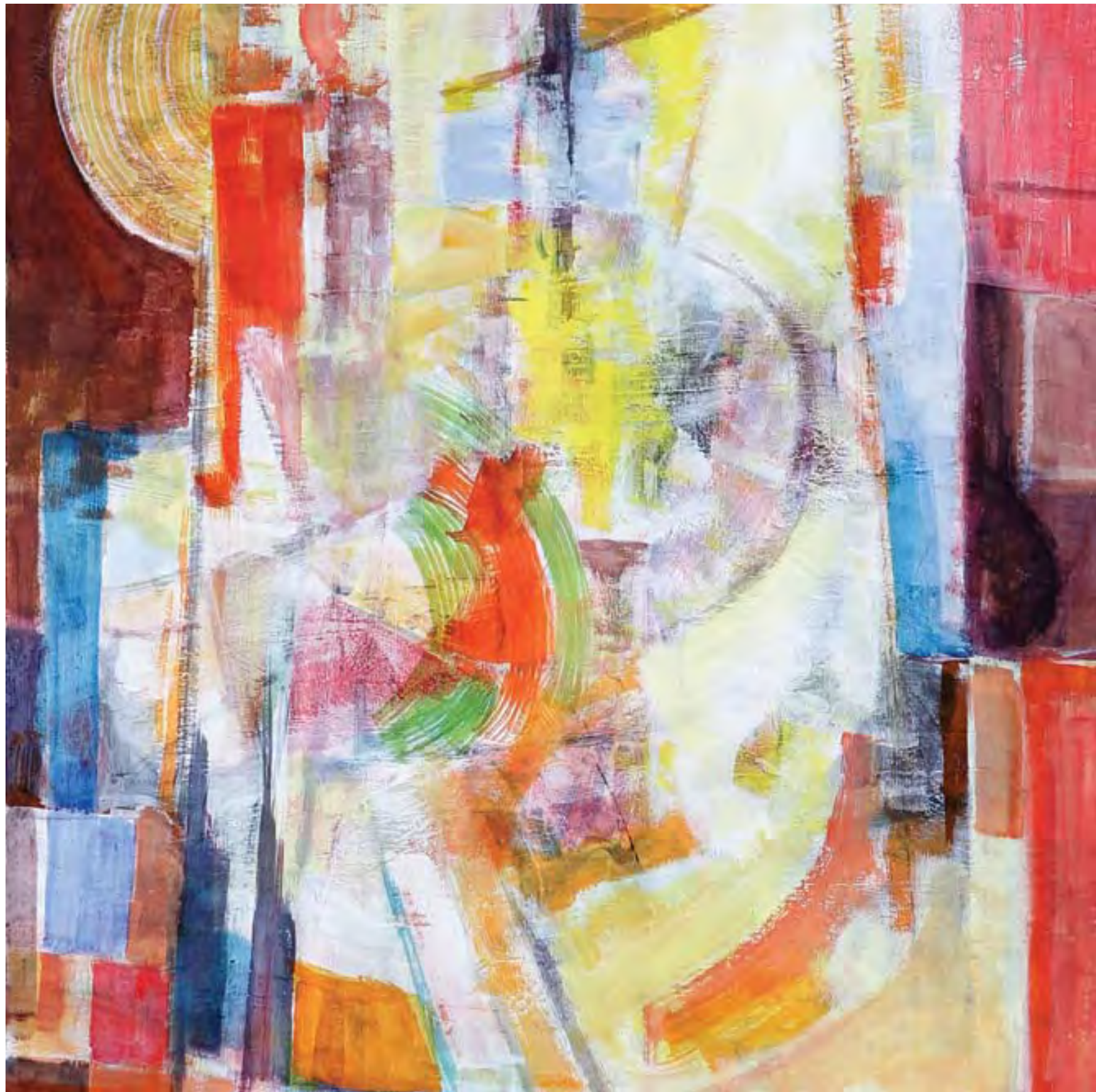
Abdurahman M. Sherif

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 Masters' 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 Ethiopian 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 Kirar 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.





Amanuel G/Michael

Amanuel G/Michael was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1984. As a child he developed passion for art. He studied Fine Arts for two years at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design. He graduated from Teferi Mekonnen College, Department of Fine Arts, specializing in Painting.

Amanuel has worked on different themes but recently, he has been working on the climax feeling of music and love, combining them in one theme. He uses simple forms and colors to express this theme. He has participated in many group exhibitions and has also held solo exhibitions.





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 2012' 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.





Behailu Bezabih

Behailu is an Art Instructor and multidisciplinary artist. Some of his works are inspired by school children. He explores and experiments on school materials such as old school desks, worn out pens and pencils and old exercise books.

Behailu's exhibitions include: the Irish Museum of Modern Arts, National Museum of Ethiopia, Bowling Green State University in USA, Goethe Institute in Berlin, Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Italian Culture Institute, Asni Gallery, Lela Gallery and Serenade Art House in Addis Ababa.

He holds an MFA in New Media, from Transart Institute, Berlin and New York.

He has participated as international residency at various workshops worldwide, since 2001.

To mention some: New York Omi, Bowling Green - Ohio, Irish Museum of Modern Arts - Dublin, Bag Factory - South Africa, Kuona Trust - Kenya, with the most recent being a cultural workshop in Cairo, Egypt.

Behailu won the Pollack-Krasner Foundation grant in 2010 and was awarded the Ethiopian Fine Arts and Mass Media Prize Trust - Gold Medal and Honorary Diploma in 2002.





Bezawit Wondwosen

Bezawit Wondwosen was born on February 21, 1985 in Addis Ababa. She excels in oil painting through her self-taught skills. Bezawit has attended many workshops, most significant of which are:

- A Workshop on Climate Change (2010), organized by ICAN JOURNEY
- UNICEF's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Art Contests (2005) – Bronze Medalist

Her works are displayed on billboards in major cities around the country.

Bezawit has a Certificate in Pattern and Garment Design from the Federal Small and Medium Enterprise Agency Handicraft Training Center, a Certificate in Graphics Design from IMAGE Graphics Design Institute, and also has an Advanced Certificate in Drawing & Watercolor from Abyssinia Fine Arts and Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Since 2008, Bezawit has been working as a full-time studio artist while pursuing clothing design in her spare time.

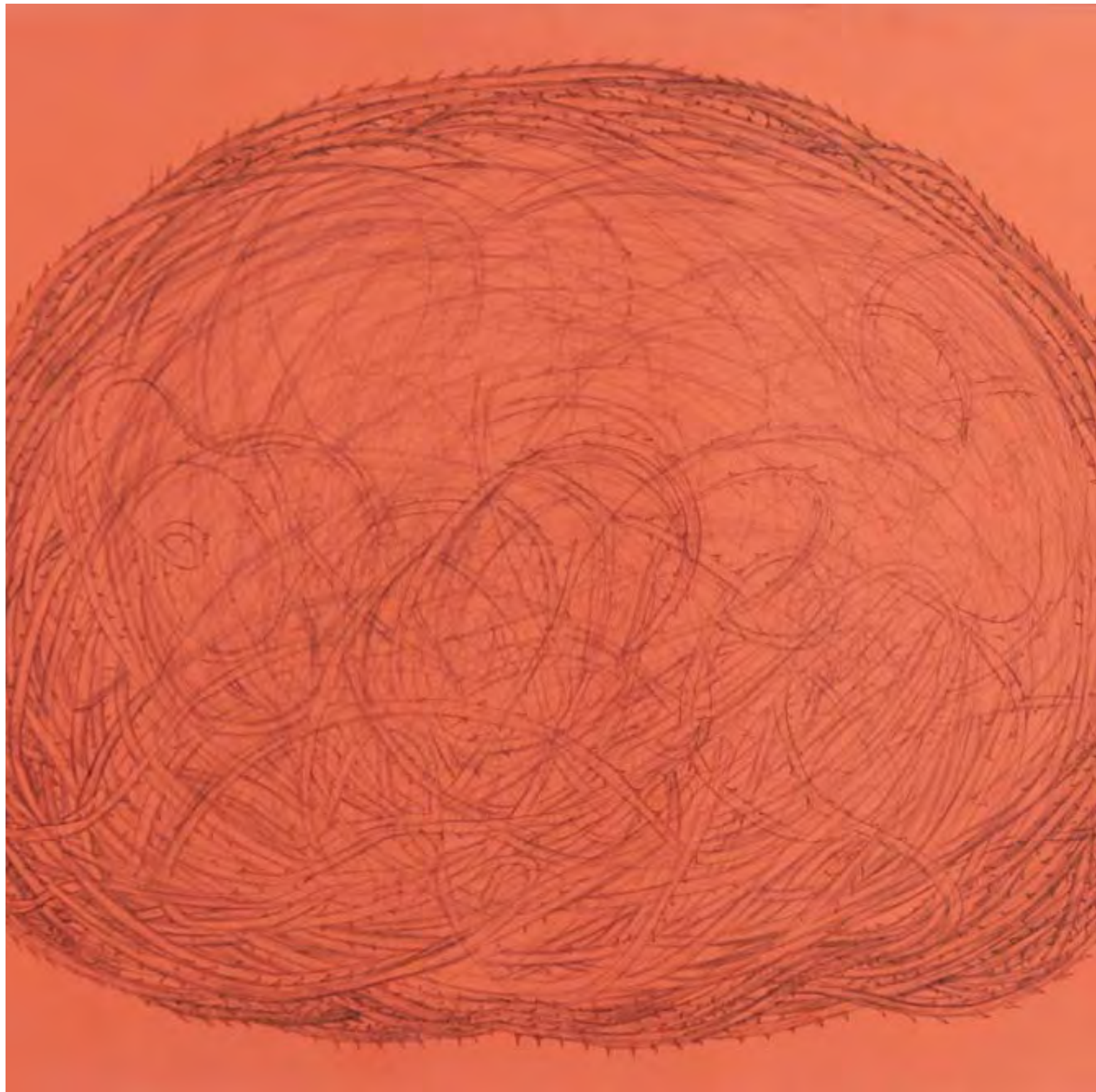




Bisrat Shibabaw

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 as an artist 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, Thiodor the 2nd, and by the Sheraton Addis.

She now owns a studio where she works full-time and makes plans for future exhibitions.





Ermias Shiberu

Ermias Shiberu was born in Ethiopia in 1977. He attended Addis Ababa Technical School where he received a Diploma in Drafting in 2002. In 2003, he completed Certificate in Design and Fine Arts through the Extension Program, from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts.

Ermias has participated in different group exhibitions like Alliance Ethio-Francaise, American Embassy, Juventus Club Group Exhibition with Spanish artists and Unity University. He has also worked as an Interior Designer and Decorator for various hotels and organisations.





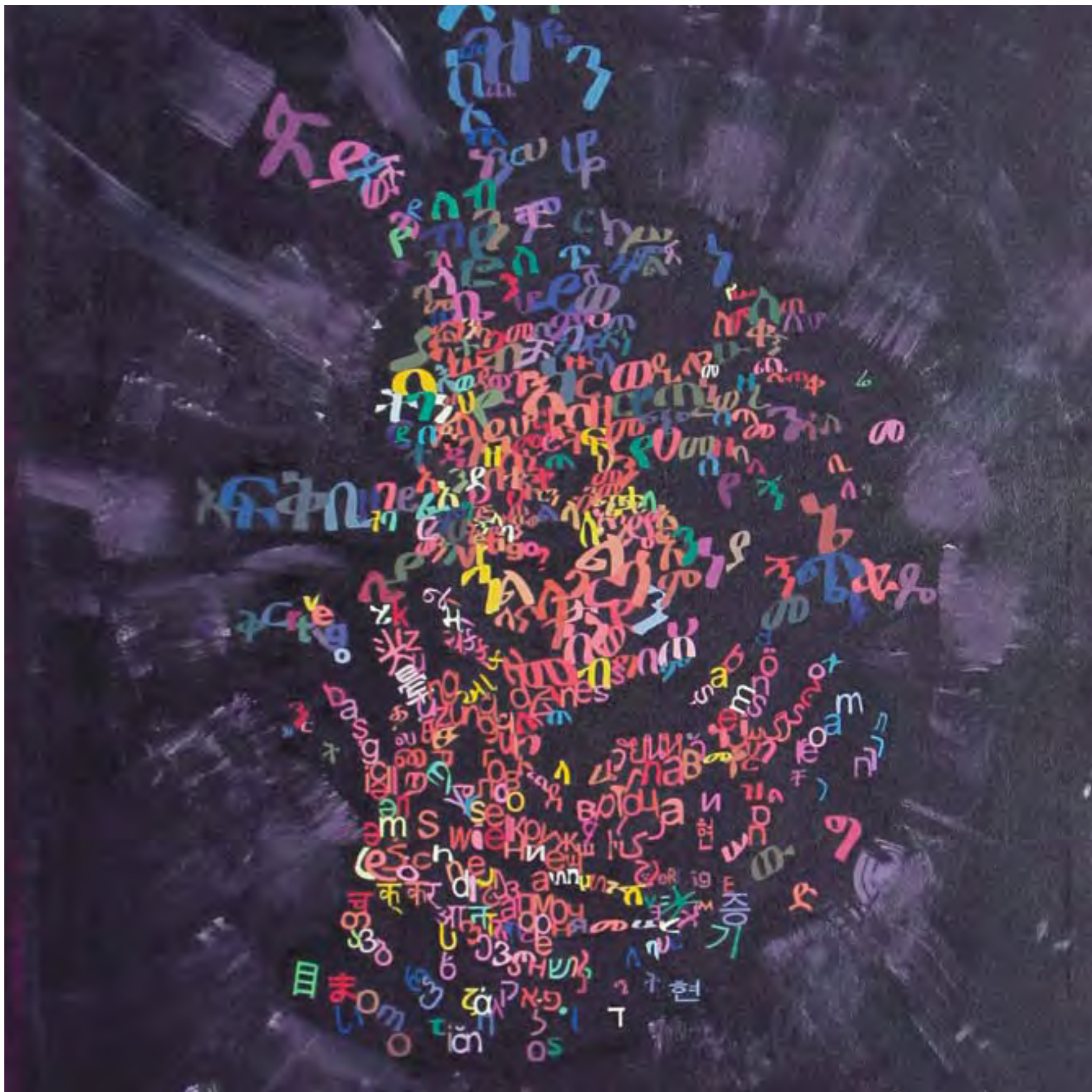
Eskinder (Alex) Maffi

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 19 June, 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.





Gashahun Kassahun

Gashahun Kassahun was born in 1980 in Woliso, Ethiopia. He joined Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design and graduated in 1999. He also graduated from Teferi Mekonnen College, Department of Fine Arts, specializing in Painting in 2011. Apart from academics, he has been working as a full time Studio Artist.

Gashahun was recently inspired and concentrated his work on “The cycle of transforming spirit to form and form to spirit”. In addition to his past experience and knowledge of shapes and colors, he enjoys constructing a generalized form with colors. With a knowledgeable and reasonable attitude, he follows his personal feelings that enable him to create unique art.

Gashahun has participated in many group art exhibitions and has also displayed solo exhibitions.

Some of the exhibitions:

- 2000 City Hall
- 2005 Russian Cultural Institute
- 2006 Hilton Ethiopia (for children with Autism)
- 2007 Ethiopian National Theater Art Gallery
- 2007 Daberhan Art Gallery (Duka Millennium Exhibition)
- 2007 “Olympiacos” Hellenic Athletics Association - Greek Club
- 2008 E.C.A. (Economic Commission for Africa)
- 2011 National Theater Art Gallery organized by Addis Development Vision





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 Institute of Fine Arts 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.





Helen Taddios

Helen Taddios was born in 1990 in Makele. She studied there until she completed High School.

In 2008, she came to Addis Ababa with her uncle and studied IT for 3 months. Since 2009, she has been learning and improving her English language. She has enjoyed visiting art galleries in Addis Ababa and kept dreaming of becoming a painter one day.

Her husband gave her the opportunity to paint and she grabbed it with both hands.

Since then, she has never looked back. Although she never received any formal training, she has put in efforts to study painting in detail.

Her dream is to paint and to be able to have her first art exhibition. She also enjoys making other people think about her art.

Helen likes to travel and discover different cultures and arts. She also loves dancing and going on long walks. She is also interested in arts and interior design.





Henok Demessie

Henok Demessie was born on November 3, 1982 in Addis Ababa. He graduated from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts with the Degree Program in Graphics and Painting in 2006.

Since 2006, Henok has been working as a full time Studio Artist. He has worked as cartoonist for several local newspapers. He is currently working on designs for several books, as well as preparing for upcoming solo exhibitions.





Joseph Habtemariam

Joseph Habtemariam was born in Addis Ababa, and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Art at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design.

He has showcased his art at numerous exhibitions, worldwide, that include:

- 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 and AOE 2011 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.





Leayne Tilahun

Leayne Tilahun is an Ethiopian artist whose work encompasses a wide spectrum of subjects. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts and Design. Leayne's take on art is reflected in his own words, "Having grown in a town where horse and horse driven carriages are abundant, one could easily get fascinated by this scenery that comprises an elegantly proportioned creature and a complex of accessories that range from ropes and wood to metals and leather. I strive to project my feelings on the subject that I believe is visually strong, by employing well thought of draughtsmanship and arrangement, along with expressive yet reserved distortion".

Leayne's exhibitions include:

Solo Exhibition

2009 – Red Cross Hall Dessie, Ethiopia

Group Exhibitions

2004 – Red Cross Hall, Dessie

2005 – Red Cross hall, Dessie

2006 – Open air Exhibition, Dessie

2006 – Ambaras Hotel, Dessie

2006 – Roha Hotel, Lalibela

2012 – Alle School of Fine Arts & Design





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 Temret 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 working with the Art of Ethiopia team since 2008.





Makeda Bizuneh

Makeda Bizuneh was born on 10 February, 1984 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She graduated with a BFA from Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts and Design, in the year 2010. In 2006, she got a BA in Marketing Management from Addis Ababa University, Commercial College.

Since her graduation in 2010, Makeda has been serving the Fine Arts and Design School as an Assistant Lecturer and Curator of the school's gallery. Apart from her academic activities, she has been engaged in her creative experiments inside her studio.

For the last two years, Makeda has concentrated on the social lifestyle of slum houses found in the city of Addis Ababa. She expresses her feelings through different forms, lines and colors and represents those houses in patterns. She has been exhibiting her works in various places in Ethiopia and abroad.

Currently, Makeda is experimenting and working on her art in different techniques and styles to develop the aesthetic value of her paintings.

Exhibitions

- International Art Exhibition under the title of “Listros a dream in a box” at Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2012
- “Fund-raising program for children”, at KZ Hotel in 2010
- “Four Freedoms Art Competition and Exhibition at American Embassy” in 2010
- The first Annual Ethiopian Visual Arts Exhibition at Laphto Center, 2011
- “Art in Ethiopia Culture” in WIPO Switzerland, 2012
- “Inspired Women” at Contemporary Art Gallery at Laphto Center, 2012





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.





Mezgebu Tesema

Mezgebu Tesema is an Ethiopian artist who was born in 1960 in the Northern Shoa Administrative Region of Ethiopia. Mezgebu attended Addis Ababa University's School of Fine Arts and Design and later went on a scholarship to Repin Academy of Painting, Architecture & Sculpture in St. Petersburg, where he received his MA. Coming back from St. Petersburg, Mezgebu became an Art Instructor for Painting and Drawing at his former alma mater.

In 1996, he began what would be a seven-year stint as Head of the Painting

Department at the Addis Ababa University. The Japan Foundation to the 'African Art Symposium 2001' made him a 'source person' for study programs in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto and Hiroshima, providing him the opportunity to tour Japan. While his work has been mixed with others in local exhibitions, he also held solo shows at the National Museum and Alliance Ethio-Francaise.

His work has also been showcased in China, Germany, Russia and USA.





Muluken Debebe

Muluken Debebe was born on 29 January, 1978 in Metehara. 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.





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 and 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.





Rediet Sisay

Rediet Sisay is an artist, craft & interior designer. She was born on June 17, 1985 in Ethiopia.

She received Certificate in Painting & Graphic Designing from Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts & Design in 2006. She started her career as a Studio Artist in 2003 but in 2005 she joined Redi's Collection as a designer.

Her exhibitions include:

- 2004 – Group art exhibition in Habesha Art Gallery
- 2006 – Solo art exhibition in the National Art Gallery
- 2007 – Group art exhibition in the National Art Gallery
- 2007 – Group art exhibition in German Restaurant
- 2011 – Group art exhibition in the National Museum
- 2011 – “Go Green Africa” exhibition at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre
- 2012 – Group exhibition in the National Museum





Samuel Hailu

Samuel Hailu is an Ethiopian artist born on June 8, 1988 at Wolkite, Gurage Zone in Southern Ethiopia. In 2009, he joined the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design and he is now a graduate student in the Department of Painting.

Since the age of 15, Samuel showed interest in art activities, especially in painting. He devoted his time in these activities which resulted in successful results.

In 2003, while he was in elementary school, he ranked as number 1 at an organized art competition.

Once again, in 2005, while in high school, he ranked as number 1 in another organized art competition. In 2009, he won the 3rd prize at an art competition organized by Embassy of USA.

In 2010, Samuel was involved in a logo competition and received a certificate of participation. In 2011, he participated in an art competition organized by the Ethiopian Women Association and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and he won the second prize in painting.

In 2003 & 2004, he displayed a solo art exhibition in Wolkite, his hometown.





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.





Sintayehu Assefa

Sintayehu Assefa was born on 5th of June 1985 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is a fourth year student in the Visual Communication Department of Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts and Design. He currently works in his own art studio where he is able to express his ideas through art.

His creations have been showcased at several venues such as ASFAD Gallery, Debrezeit Babogaya Resort, Panache Art Gallery and Habesha Traditional Art Center, just to mention a few.





Sofia Kifle

Sofia Kifle is an US-based Ethiopian artist. She received her MFA from Howard University. Her exhibitions include:

- 2011 Group exhibition, Art of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2011 Solo exhibition, Asni Gallery, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2009 Solo exhibition, University of North Carolina Wilmington, North Carolina
- 2009 Solo exhibition, Westfield State College, Westfield, Massachusetts
- 2008 Solo exhibition, Ayn Studio, Washington, DC
- 2007 Group exhibition, Howard University Blackburn Art Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2007 Group exhibition, Vital Voices Cape Town, South Africa
- 2007 Group exhibition, Medusa Muse, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 2006 Group exhibition, Medusa Muse, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 2005 Group exhibition, Artists for Fistula, Arlington, Virginia
- 2005 Group exhibition, Artists for Fistula, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 2004 Group exhibition, Medusa Muse, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 2004 Group exhibition, Celebration of Women: Vision and Movement, Edison Place Gallery Washington, DC
- 2003 Group exhibition, Medusa Muse, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 2003 Group exhibition, Colors of Africa – Diggs Gallery Winston - Salem State University
- 2002 Solo exhibition, A Journey, at WorldSpace, Washington, DC
- 2001 Colors of Africa - Contemporary Perspectives, The Art Gallery – University of New England, Portland, ME
- 2001 Art work published in 366 Days of Black History 2001 calendar
- 2001 International Art Exhibition, Ingredients for Peace, United Nations, New York, NY
- 2000 Art work published in 366 Days of Black History 2000 calendar
- 2000 An international art exhibition, Progress of the World's Women, United Nations, New York, NY
- 2000 The 69th Annual Art Students Exhibition, Gallery of Art, Howard University, Washington, DC
- 2000 Group exhibition, The National Summit on Africa: African Artists, World Bank Group, Washington, DC
- 1999 Group exhibition, REBIRTH, AYASO International Fine Art, Washington, DC
- 1998 Group exhibition, Gallery 500, Washington, DC
- 1998 Group exhibition, Exhibit of Contemporary African Art, WorldSpace, Washington, DC
- 1997 Group exhibition, Five Painters from Ethiopia, Montgomery College, Takoma Park, MD
- 1997 The International Art Biennale, Malta, Europe (Watercolor & Drawing, 5th prize)
- 1997 Group exhibition, Traditions of Ethiopian Art: History, Ceremony, Storytelling, Charles Sumner School Museum & Gallery, Washington, DC
- 1996 Group exhibition, Abstract Visions: African American History Month & Women's History Month exhibition, National Public Radio, Washington, DC
- 1996 One Woman Show, Color is Rhythm – Rhythm is Color, AYASO International Fine Art, Washington, DC
- 1995 One Woman Show, Swingin' Colors, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington, DC





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 (Tesfu)

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:

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





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 Girma

Tewodros Girma was born in 1979 in Negele Borana, Ethiopia. Tewodros has been practicing art since he was 13, in Assella City, under the instruction of artist Buzuayehu Girma, who was a graduate from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design.

In 1998, he was a resident in Awassa and worked as an amateur artist. He got the First Prize award under the title 'Regional Art Competition' which was organized by Southern Nations Nationalities and People, Cultural Bureau of Awassa.

In 2007, he graduated from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts & Design with a Bachelor of Arts degree, specializing in painting.

Since then, he has participated in several group exhibitions and public art projects with well-known Ethiopian artists, in Addis Ababa and Awassa. He also works on monumental, art, mosaic art and projects with well-known and fellow young Ethiopian artists.

Currently, he is engaged on the theme 'Music and Musicians', in which he tries to express, interpret and experiment to reflect the mood, emotion, movement, feelings and rhythm of music and musicians, in a way he has seen and felt about. Tewodros is a part-time Instructor at Next Fashion Designing Institute.





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 for 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.





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, he has been part of the Art of Ethiopia show since its 2nd year. 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.





Yared Olivelli

Yared Olivelli was born in 1985. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in Graphics Art in 2010.

Since 2010, he has been working as an Instructor at the School of Fine Arts & Design of Addis Ababa University.

Yared's works have been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Addis Ababa and other countries.

These include:

- 2004 Red Cross Hall Dessie
- 2005 Adama
- 2007 Makush Art Gallery- Addis Ababa
- 2008 Lalibela Exhibition Centre
- 2008 "Listro" School of Fine Arts Gallery with international artists in Addis Ababa & Germany
- 2009 At US Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





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.





Yonas Degefa

Yonas Degefa was born in Addis Ababa in 1987. He took some courses at Russian Cultural Center (Pushkin) and later joined Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts & Design, where he graduated in Arts.

Yonas' initial interest was to write poems on a regular basis. He also maintained a personal diary. Over the years, upon analyzing his diary, he realized that romance and the explosive nature of poetry could be reflected in paintings. In his endeavors of finding the visual counterpart of his poems, he features female figures in his paintings, as a sign of beauty and romance.

Yonas' works mainly focusses on Ethiopian calligraphy, icon, tradition and colors. He has participated in different group exhibitions and fairs apart from competing in various art competitions.

Some of his exhibitions:

- 2009 & 2010 Alliance Ethio-Francaise
- 2011 Art Fair around Boston Spa
- 2011 The forth Ethiopian Annual Art Exhibition
- 2012 Alliance Ethio-Francaise





Yonatan Wondwosen

Ethiopian artist, Yonatan Wondwosen, was born in 1988 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He graduated from Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts & Design of in Sculpture Department.

He has participated in several workshops and courses in photography, bronze casting & illustration of books. He is now a full-time Studio Artist.

He has participated in several group exhibitions in Ethiopia, including:

- Alliance Ethio-Francaise
- American Embassy
- Italian Cultural Institute
- Gojo Art Gallery
- Beharawi Theater
- “Listro” School of Fine Arts Gallery in Addis Ababa University
- Taitu Hotel





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

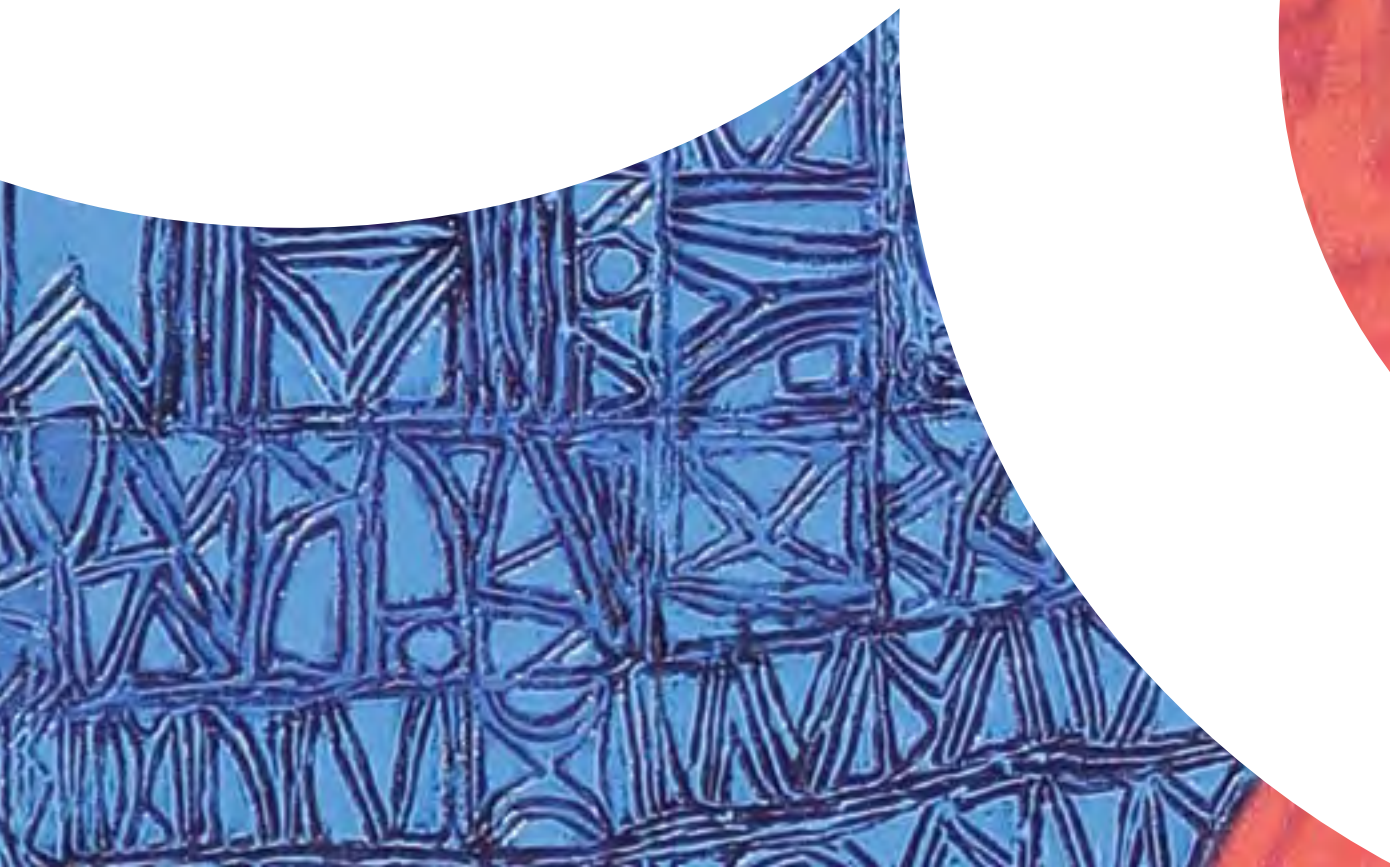
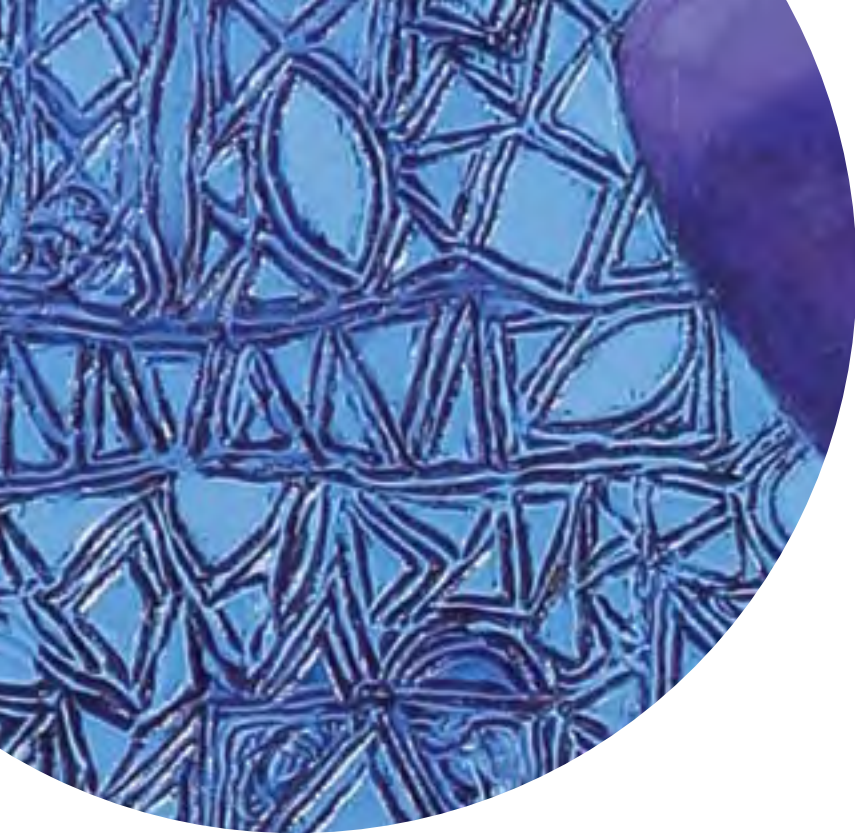
Zerihun Yetmgeta has established a trademark with his magic scroll paintings based on weaver's tools and strips of parchment framed on pieces of wood. His unique art form "transforms traditional motifs into a modern idiom", in the words of art critic Elizabeth Biasio.

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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