



# art of ethiopia 2013



## FEATURED ARTISTS

Aberham Debebe  
Abyalew Assefa  
Addis Gezehagn  
Amanuel Gebre Michael  
Behailu Bezabih  
Bezawit Wondwosen  
Bisrat Shibabaw  
Daniel Taye  
Dawit Abebe  
Desta Hagos  
Emanuel Tegene  
Ephrem Solomon Tegegn  
Ermiyas Shiberu  
Fassil Assefa Beyene  
Fitsum Wubeshet  
Gashahun Kassahun  
Getahun Assefa  
Gizachew Kebede  
Henok Demessie  
Joseph Habtemariam  
Kebreab Demeke  
Kerima Ahmed  
Kohar Kevorkian  
Leayne Tilahun  
Leykun Girma

Leykun Wondifraw  
Lulseged Retta  
Makeda Bizuneh  
Merikokeb Berhanu  
Mezgebu Tesema  
Muluken Debebe  
Nigatu Solomon  
Ousman Hassen  
Rediet Sisay  
Samuel Hailu  
Seyoum Ayalew  
Sofie Kifle  
Tadesse Mesfin  
Teferi Mekonnen  
Tsfaye Bekele  
Tsfaye Asefa (Tesfu)  
Tewodros Girma  
Tewodros Hagos  
Worku Goshu  
Yared Olivelli  
Yitagesu Mergia  
Yodit Assefa  
Yonas Melesa  
Yonatan Wondwosen  
Yosef Lule



What is art? Is it a departure or is it the coming together of experiences, thoughts, perceptions and societal frictions. But however it is perceived and by whoever it is perceived, art is always beautiful. Throughout human history, art has moved along the parallel lanes of human evolution, understanding its surroundings and evolving accordingly. Like the indomitable spirit of man, art endures, creates hope in the darkest times and therein lies its true strength.

Art of the 21st century is vast and varied. But the one common thread that runs through most of the art is that it is not just about physical artwork, but also about the context of galleries, online sites and political situations that influence the creation of art.

Art fairs are an important way to see hundreds of contemporary artworks at once. We have moved a long way from the once held notion that art was the domain of the select few. Today we no longer have a singular art capital in the world. The annual Art of Ethiopia show has emerged as one such event to promote Ethiopian artists to the country and the world.

The artists featured in this show come from diverse backgrounds, some of whom are known around the world while some are ushering in a new wave of art in Ethiopia. This year's show features several new emerging artists who are destined to be a part of the rapid transformation taking place in contemporary Ethiopian art. These artists will be contributing a small portion of their proceeds towards the Sheraton Addis Art Endowment Fund as has been the practice for the last four years. The fund will continue to support the development of artistic endeavors in Ethiopia.

Vincent Van Gogh said, "It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done." Art of Ethiopia 2013 exemplifies this love and passion.

Enjoy the show and deepen your appreciation of the arts at the Sixth Annual Art of Ethiopia 2013 show.

**Jean Pierre Manigoff, R**  
**General Manager**



Dear Friends of Art,

Welcome to Art of Ethiopia 2013.

Curating Art of Ethiopia over the past few years has been a fascinating experience for me. Both as an artist and a curator, I spend a great deal of time following the change in global economies and the arts industry which is forced to innovate and provide creative solutions for creating sustainability in the market.

Today, experimental creativity is re-emerging among Ethiopian artists with some shifting away from traditionalism. Art of Ethiopia continues to provide an opportunity for them to display their new work to the community of Addis Ababa and of Ethiopia in general.

Each exhibition has been documented with a printed catalogue. The catalogues are a rich historical record of the exhibited works themselves. From catalogue to catalogue, one can chart the evolving nature of the artist's work and the creative atmosphere as well as the effort the management of the Sheraton Addis has put in to make each and every event a success.

I wish the artists every success.

**Marina Emphietzi-Harris**  
Fine Artist and Curator  
[www.marinaharris.com](http://www.marinaharris.com)





### *Art... The Horizon of Music*

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

The Art of Ethiopia exhibitions started five years ago and within a short span of time this annual art event has achieved a lot of success. But behind this success is the dedication, hard work and continuous support of Sheraton Addis and its team. The unwavering support from the General Manager of Sheraton Addis, Mr. Jean-Pierre Manigoff and his team has helped in making Art of Ethiopia a success story.

The Sheraton Addis also provides the exhibition with the best possible space. The long hours put in by the exhibition preparatory team, working months to screen possible participants, prepare all necessary arrangements, is highly commendable. Every year the show starts with a grand opening that includes a magnificent cocktail party all arranged by Sheraton Addis. I would also like to thank Mr. Omar Carrera for his meticulous work in organizing the exhibition.

The Art of Ethiopia exhibitions have opened the doors to the world stage for young Ethiopian artists. The exhibition, through the years, has come of age in all possible dimensions. Forms and content of the exhibition have also expanded enormously. Though each exhibition has its particularities, yet, each year's exhibition encompasses oil paintings, water color compositions, sculptures, graphics, art on canvas, cotton, acrylic, crayon and charcoal art works.

As the saying goes - art is frozen music. Even casual art lovers who have had the privilege of attending the exhibition haven't walked out without finding a piece to their liking.

The Art of Ethiopia exhibition is already an event recognized by the art world for its excellence and diversity. Art lovers have come from around the world to see and own a piece or two to their liking. Our city residents have also grown to love art and own works of our artists.

It gives me pleasure to look back at our progress and I hope we will continue to appreciate art and artists in the years to come.

Thank you,

**Lulseged Retta**  
**The Bridge**



## ABERHAM DEBEBE

**EDUCATION:** Aberham Debebe was born on 11th September, 1987 in Ethiopia. He was trained at the Abyssinia Fine Arts and Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa and later at the Entoto TVET College, Addis Ababa. In 2012, he completed a 10+3 Diploma in Fine Arts/Painting.

**CAREER:** As an upcoming artist Aberham has within a short span showcased his work at various exhibitions that include a group exhibition at the Alliance Éthio-Française, Harmony group art exhibition at the Ethiopian National Museum, a group exhibition at the Entoto Technical and Vocational Training College Art Gallery and a group exhibition at the National Theatre Art Gallery.

**INSPIRATION:** Aberham believes silence is a force that speaks a language more powerful than words can do. He enjoys silence as it brings him closer to nature. The colors of nature, landscapes and the beautiful sky create an overwhelming silence in him. All these emotions come together beautifully in his amazing work.





## ABYALEW ASSEFA

**EDUCATION:** Abyalew Assefa graduated with 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.

**CAREER:** 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.

**ACCLAIM:** Abyalew Assefa has received many accolades during his 17-year professional career as an artist. He was declared Environmental Ambassador of Lake Awassa by the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR).







## ADDIS GEZEHAGN

**EDUCATION:** 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.

**CAREER:** After graduating in 2001, Addis worked as a full-time artist at the Ethiopian Art Studio. To date, he has held a number of solo and group exhibitions in Ethiopia and many other countries.

**INSPIRATION:** The key to the variety in Addis' art is his ability to draw inspiration from diverse sources. Deriving ideas from his subconscious, his work is a reflection of life, depicting both live and inanimate objects.







## AMANUEL GEBRE MICHAEL

**EDUCATION:** Amanuel Gebre Michael studied fine arts at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2005. He also graduated from the Teferi Mekonnen College, Department of Fine Arts, specializing in Painting in 2011.

**CAREER:** He has participated in a number of group exhibitions at venues such as the Taitu Hotel, the Golagule Tower, the Sheraton Addis, the Alliance Éthio-Française, the Laphto Mall, the National Theater and the American Embassy. He has showcased his work in a solo exhibition held at his own studio.

**INSPIRATION:** His paintings are inspired by the movements created by the climactic feelings of music and love combined together. He loves to use simple forms and mixture of plane forms and volume in his work of art.

**NOW:** Currently he works as a full-time studio artist.







## BEHAILU BEZABIH

**EDUCATION:** Behailu Bezabih is a multidisciplinary artist who was born in 1960 in Ethiopia. Behailu holds an MFA in New Media from the Transart Institute, Berlin and New York.

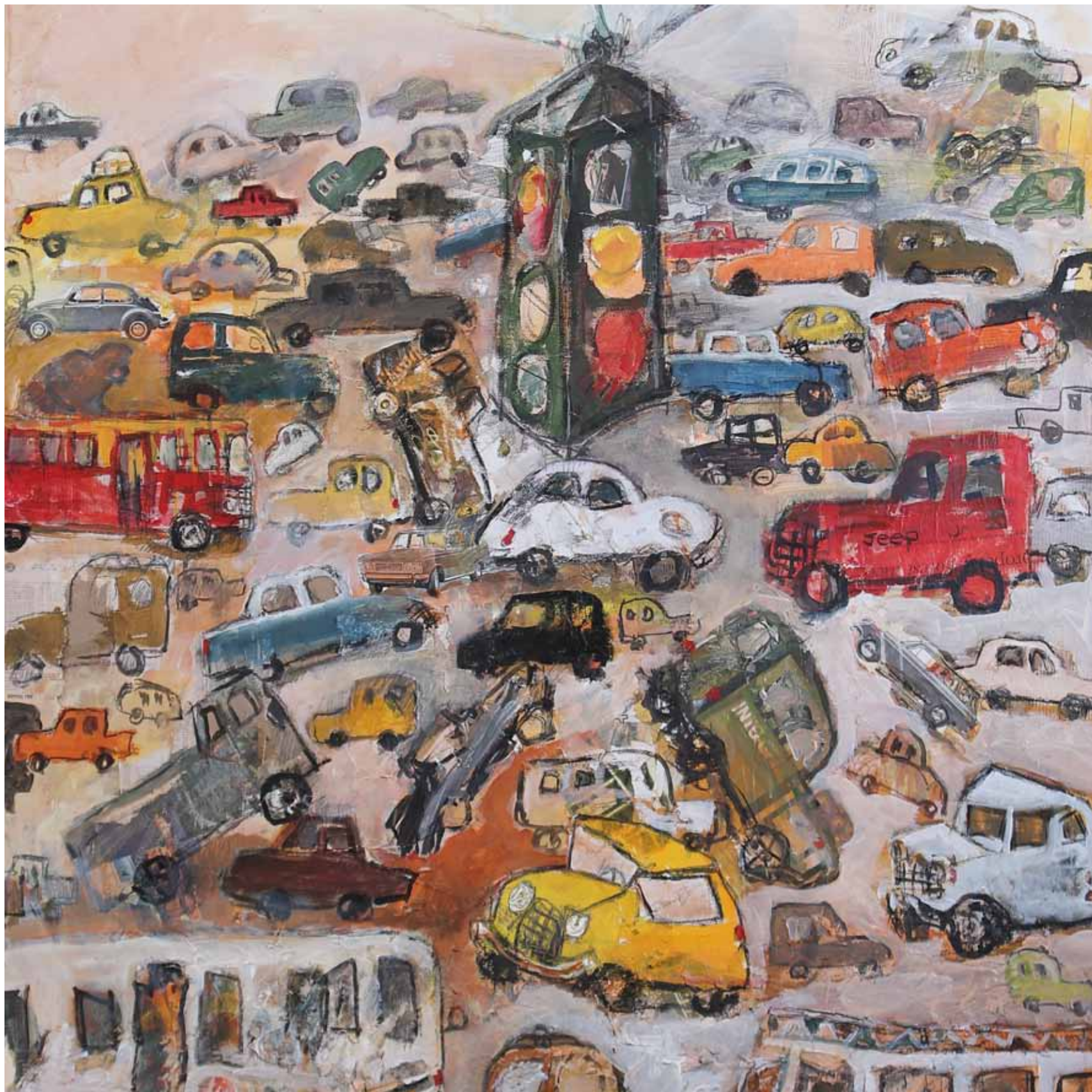
**CAREER:** He has held solo exhibitions at the National Museum of Ethiopia, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, the Bag Factory South Africa, the Bowling Green State University, Ohio USA, the Goethe-Institute Berlin and Addis Ababa, the Alliance Éthio-Française, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Asni Gallery, the Lela Gallery and the Serenade Art House in Addis Ababa.

Since 2001 he has participated as an international resident artist in various countries and at various workshops, some of which are Egypt, New York Omi, the Bowling Green State University, Ohio, Dublin, Ireland, South Africa, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, France, and Germany.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** He won the prestigious Pollack-Krasner Foundation grant 2010 and was awarded the Ethiopian Fine Arts and Mass Media Prize Trust-Gold Medal and an Honorary Diploma in 2002.

**NOW:** Currently he works as a lecturer at Alle School of Fine Arts and Design at the Addis Ababa University.









## BEZAWIT WONDWOSEN

**EDUCATION:** Bezawit Wondwosen was born on 21st February, 1985 in Addis Ababa. 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 the IMAGE Graphics Design Institute, and also has an advanced certificate in Drawing & Watercolor from the Abyssinia Fine Arts and Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**CAREER:** 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.

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





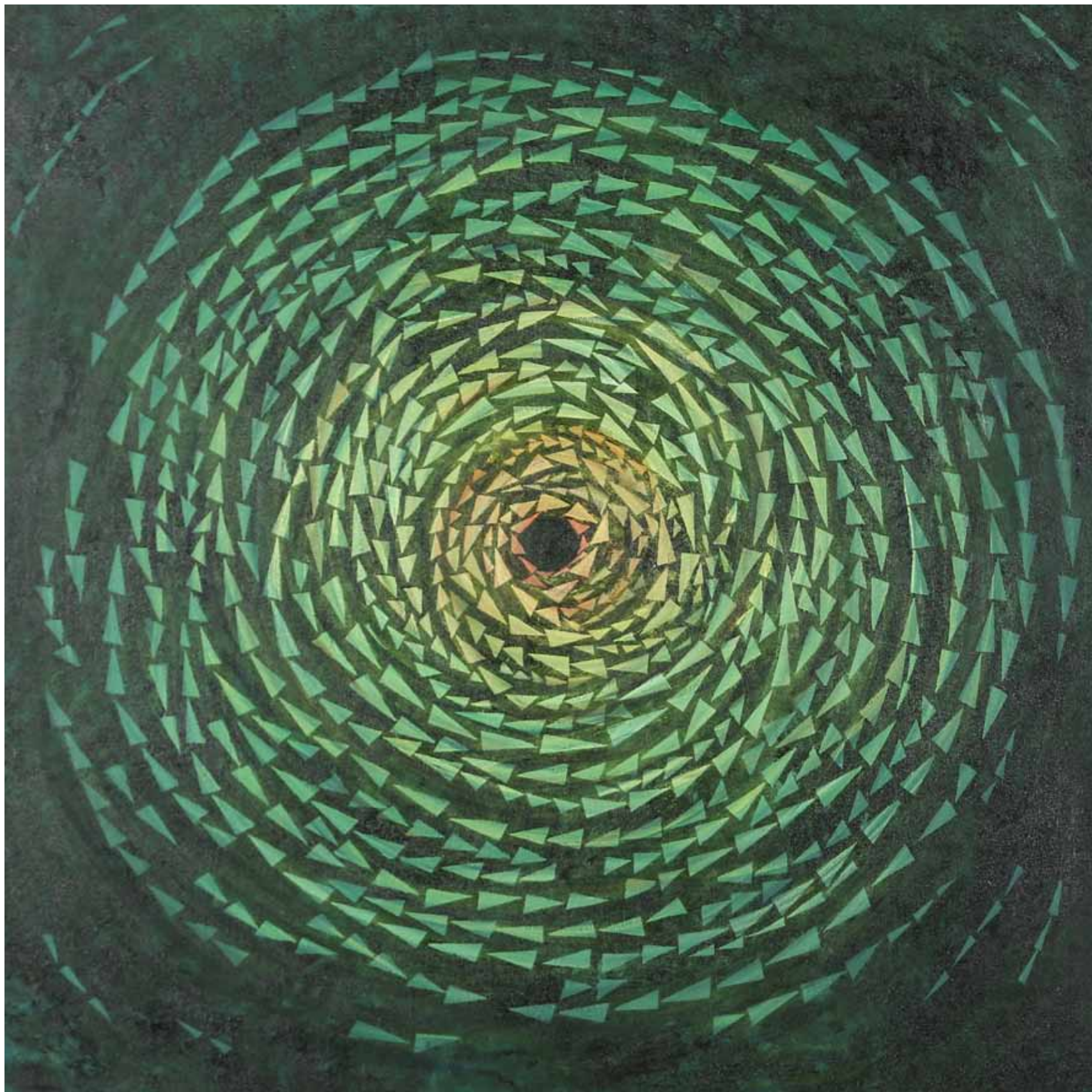
## BISRAT SHIBABAW

**EDUCATION:** Bisrat Shibabaw was born in Addis Ababa in October, 1965. After finishing her high school, Bisrat studied for her Diploma at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design. She completed her Master's degree at the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts in Russia.

**CAREER:** She has displayed her work at numerous solo exhibitions, at venues such as the Alliance Éthio-Française and the 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.

**NOW:** Bisrat current works as an Instructor at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design.







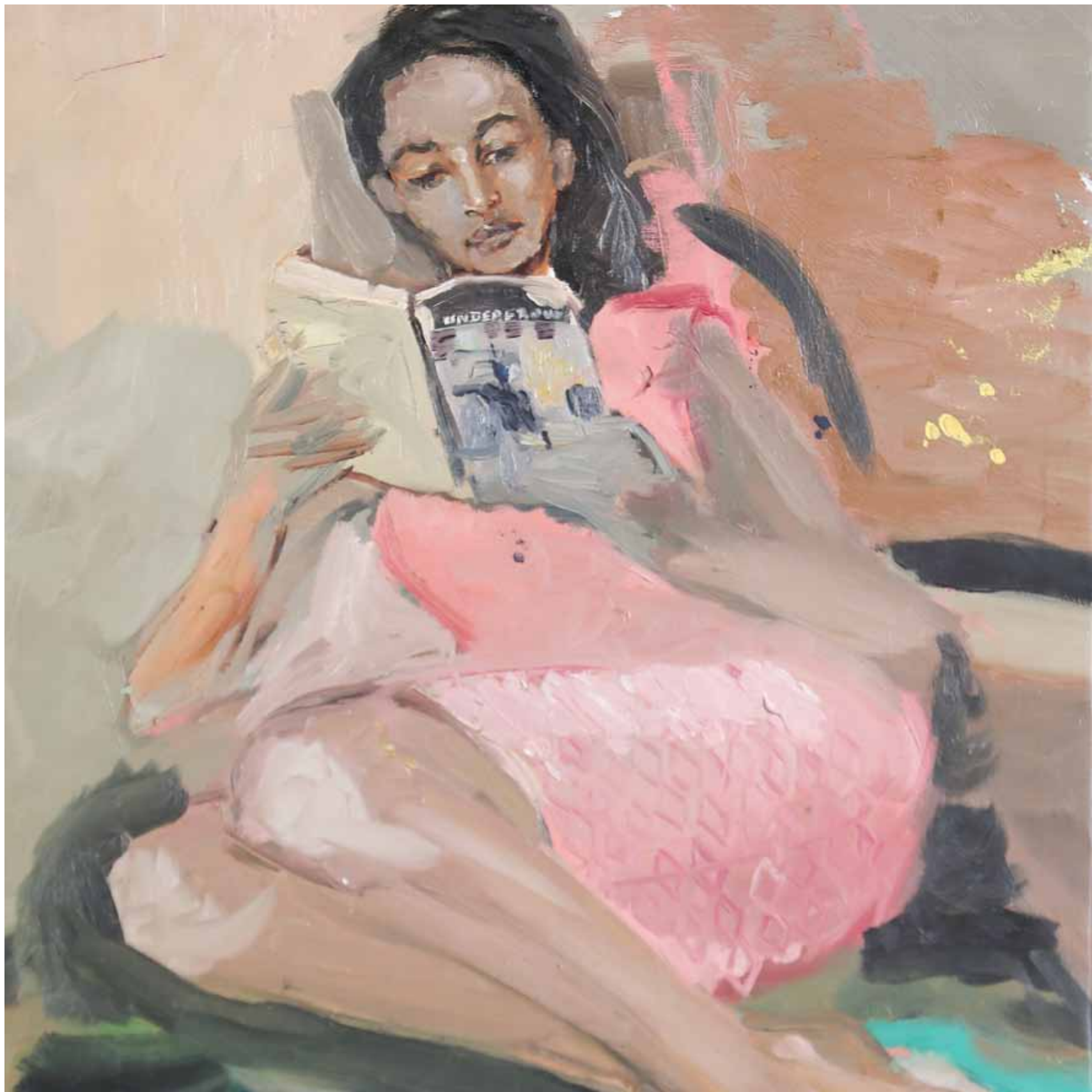
## DANIEL TAYE

**EDUCATION:** 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.

**CAREER:** 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, the Goethe Institute and the Italian Cultural Institute. His work has also been showcased internationally in Holland and the United States of America.

**NOW:** He currently works as an artist and resides in Addis Ababa.







## DAWIT ABEBE

**EDUCATION:** Dawit Abebe was born in Addis Ababa in 1979. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001.

**CAREER:** Dawit's work has been showcased at several solo and group exhibitions, at venues such as the Alliance Éthio-Française, the Lela Art Gallery, the 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 Éthio-Française in 2009, and in Paris in 2010.

**INSPIRATION:** 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."

**NOW:** Since 2001 Dawit has worked as a full-time studio artist at the Habesha Art Studio.







## DESTA HAGOS

**EDUCATION:** Desta Hagos 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 United States of America. After completing her Bachelor's degree in 1973, she returned to Ethiopia.

**CAREER:** Desta 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 of America. 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.

**ACCLAIM:** As Ethiopia's leading female contemporary artist, Desta's work has earned her international fame. 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.

**NOW:** Today she owns a studio where she works full-time and makes plans for her future exhibitions.







## EMANUEL TEGENE

**EDUCATION:** Emanuel Tegene was born on 29th August, 1985 in Ethiopia. He is currently attending the Abyssinia Art Academy. Before that he received fine arts training at the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design.

**CAREER:** Emanuel started his career in 2009 as a cartoonist for Saloon Ethiopia. He later worked on various projects, from creating movie storyboards to book covers. It has been less than a year since Emanuel showcased his first works for Art of Memory at the Italian Cultural Institute. Since then he has participated in various events and exhibitions that include Café Town at the National Gallery, Chewata at the Italian Cultural Institute, the AU Golden Jubilee Art Exhibition at the Sheraton Addis and the African Aesthetics celebrating the AU at the Addis Ababa University, Institute of Ethiopian Studies Museum.

**NOW:** Currently Emanuel works as a DFA Production Assistant and painter.





If there was ever one  
To whom when you are sleeping  
Who would wipe your tears  
When in dreams you are sleeping  
Who would offer you time  
When others demand  
Whose love lay more infinite  
Than grains of sand  
Then see only my face  
In the reflection of your fidelity  
Through the clear water  
Beyond the outside  
All I can send is love  
And all that this is  
A poem and a necklace  
Of invisible kisses.

Emmanuel  
Tegene  
2013



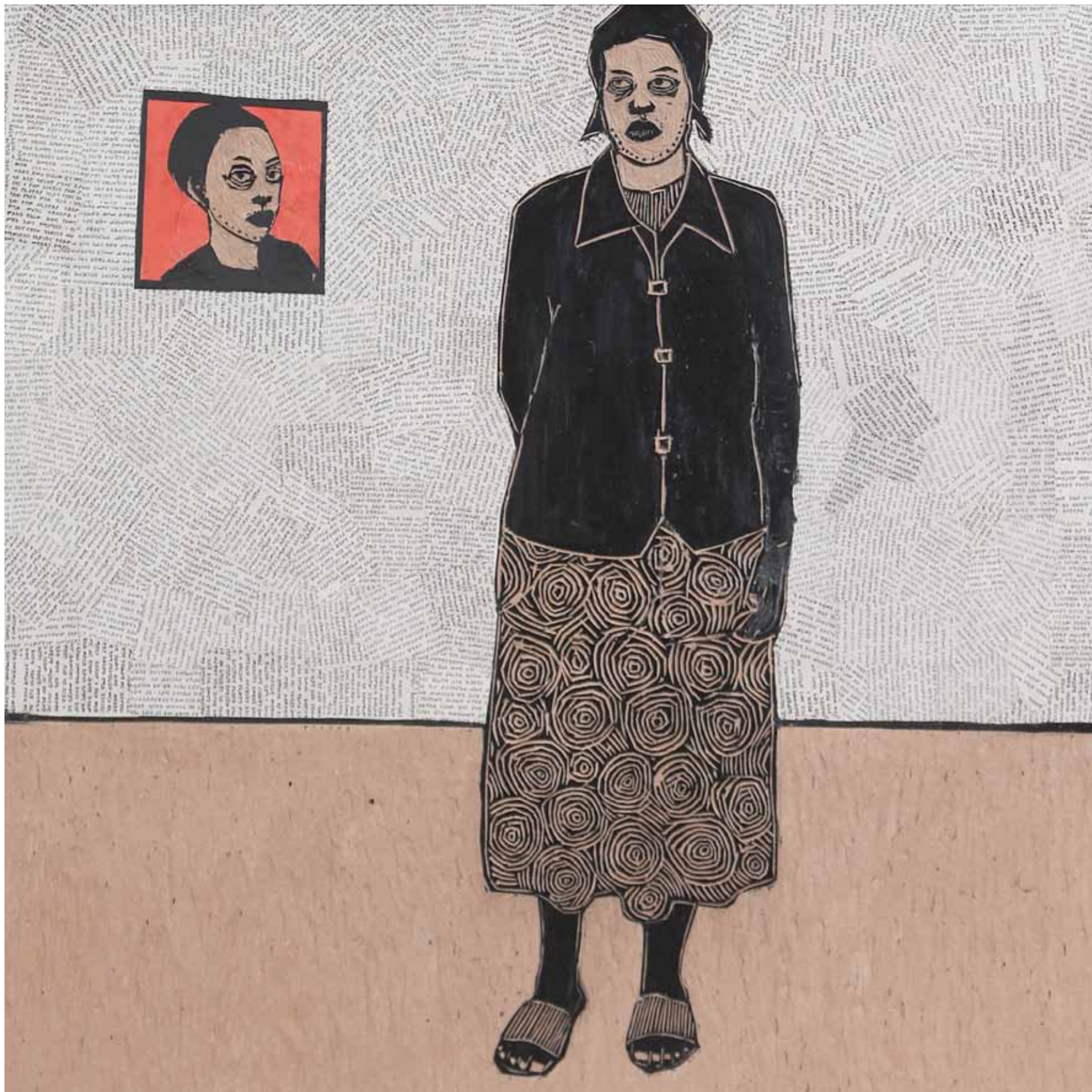
## EPHREM SOLOMON TEGEGN

**EDUCATION:** Ephrem Solomon Tegegn was born in Addis Ababa in 1983. After finishing high school he joined an art school to pursue his interest in art. In 2009 he completed a Diploma in Fine Art and Graphic Arts at the Entoto TVET College in Addis Ababa.

**CAREER:** Since participating in his first group exhibition at the Russian Center for Science & Culture, Addis Ababa in 2002, Ephrem has presented his work at various national and international exhibitions that include the Contemporary African Art and its Caricature 2013 at the Ichono Yakata Gallery Yokohama City University, Japan; (DUCTAC), Dubai in 2011; the 2nd International Biennial of Painters and Sculptors, Croatia in 2010; and the Italian Culture Institute Addis Ababa (CHEWATA) The Game of Life, Ethiopia in 2013. In 2012 he had his first solo exhibition at Le Rustique Exhibition, Nairobi, Kenya.

**INSPIRATION:** Ephrem finds inspiration from the sociopolitical aspects of human life and nature. His work is based on his personal experiences as well as his visions of future. Although his work can be described as based on realistic themes, yet his aims never stay fixed. Sometimes his paintings are unapologetically descriptive of what is immediately around him. He employs black and white colors to describe various aspects of life.







## ERMIYAS SHIBERU

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

**CAREER:** Ermiyas has participated in different group exhibitions held at the Alliance Éthio-Française, the American Embassy, the Juventus Club Group Exhibition with Spanish artists and the Unity University. He has also worked as an Interior Designer and Decorator for various hotels and organisations.

**INSPIRATION:** Ermiyas always wanted to become an artist. The love for art runs in his blood. He decided to be an artist after reading Michelangelo's and Leonardo Da Vinci's books.







## FASSIL ASSEFA BEYENE

**EDUCATION:** Fasil Assefa Beyene was born on 27th January, 1984. He graduated with a Master's degree from the Fine Arts and Vocational Training Center in 2002 and a year later completed a certificate course from the Department of Drawing and Painting, Abyssinian Fine Arts and Vocational Training Center. He continued his studies at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design from 2005-2007 and then majored in Painting from 2008-2011 at the Entoto TVET College of Fine Arts.

**CAREER:** Alongside his studies, Fasil worked at the School of Tomorrow from December 2005 to March 2007 as an artist. He has participated in a number of group and solo art exhibitions. His first solo exhibition titled 'Colors of the Millennium' was held in 2008 at the Imperial Hotel, Addis Ababa. His second exhibition titled 'Colorful City' was held at the National Museum of Ethiopia. He has participated in a number of group exhibitions held at prestigious venues such as the Russian Center for Science and Culture, the National Theater Gallery, the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design Gallery, the National Museum Gallery and the Sheraton Addis Ababa Hotel.

**ACCLAIM:** Fasil has received recognition from a number of government and non-government organisations such as the AIAU, the Entoto TVET College (The Voice of the Left Out), and the Lideta Sub City.

**INSPIRATION:** Fasil enjoys writing poetry which is another facet of his artistic pursuits. He has been acknowledged as an ambassador of peace by the Universal Peace Federation and Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace.

**NOW:** Fasil is now a full-time studio artist.





## FITSUM WUBESHET

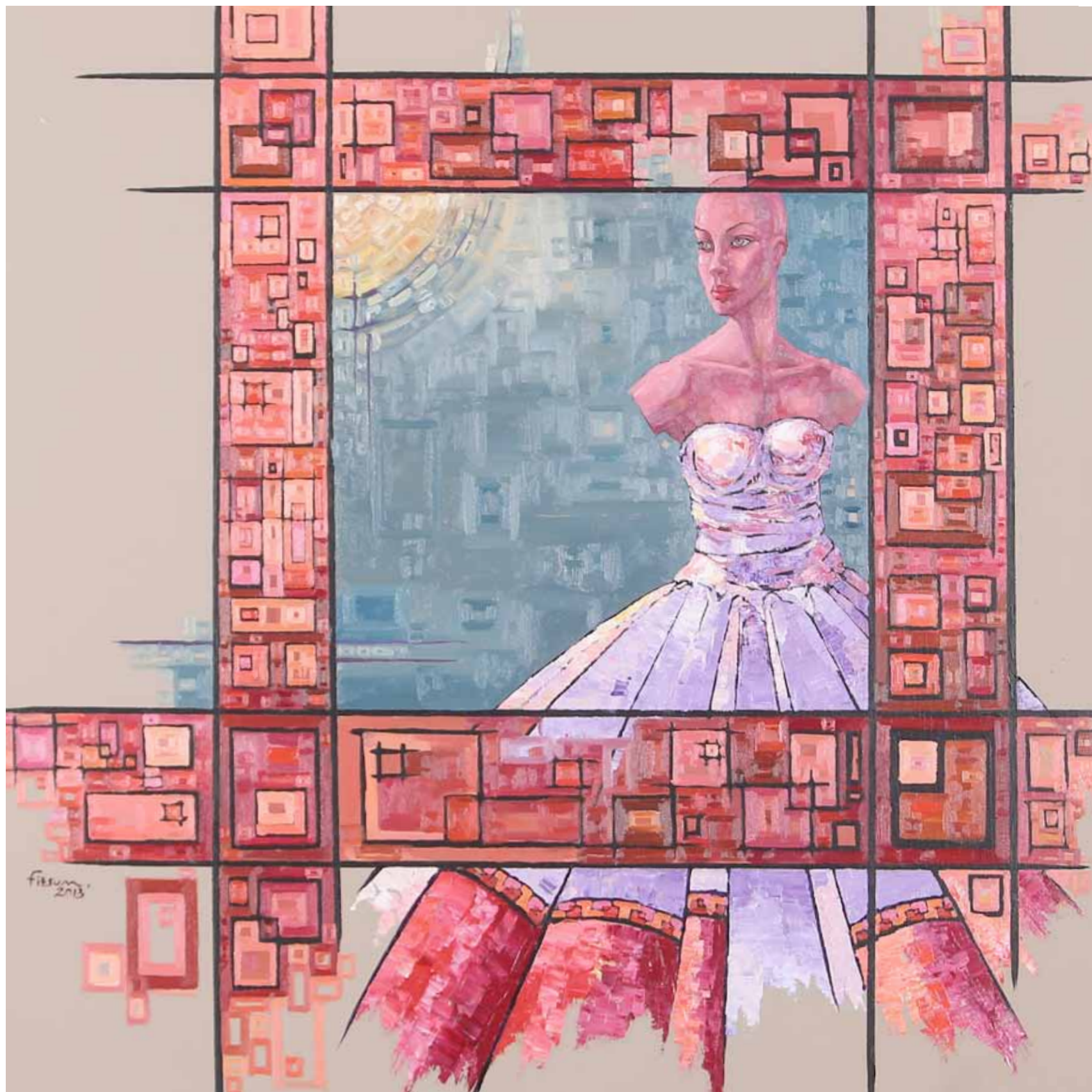
**EDUCATION:** Born in 1981, Fitsum Wubeshet is a self taught artist based in Addis Ababa. He received training in basic fine art.

**CAREER:** He started his career in 2001 serving as a cartoonist at different newspapers and magazines where he was recognized for his captivating and contemporary work on economic, political and social issues. Apart from his successful career in art journalism, he has been aggressively engaged in painting since 2004, as a result of which he has succeeded in staging many solo and group exhibitions on various silent themes, which have become his hallmark.

**INSPIRATION:** Evolving through different themes, his recent works reflect comparable elements of Addis Ababa and the urban lifestyle transition and its multi-faceted impact on social and economic dynamics. Fitsum has also proved his talent by depicting practical realities in metal art other than painting.

**NOW:** He is currently a full-time studio artist in Addis Ababa.







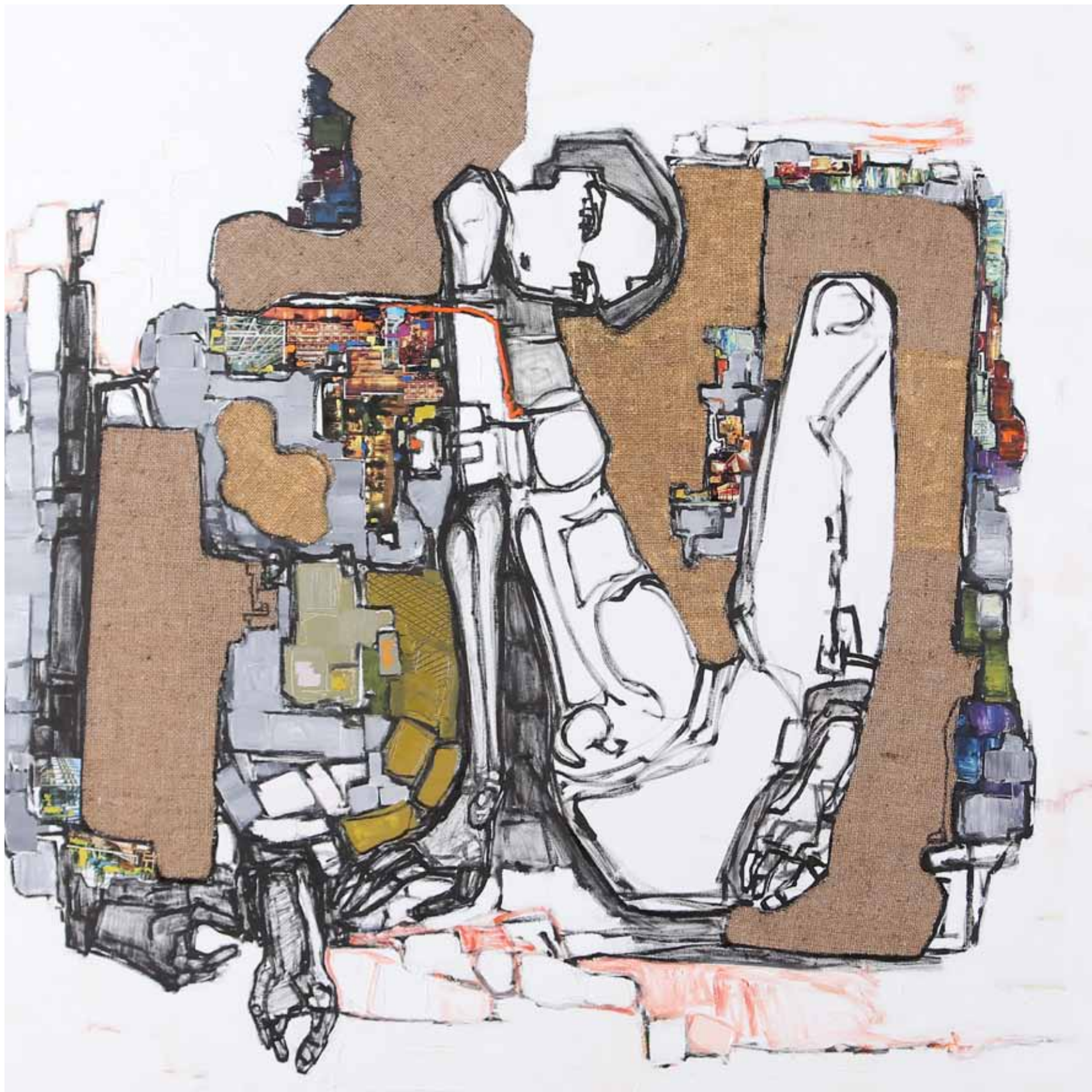
## GASHAHUN KASSAHUN

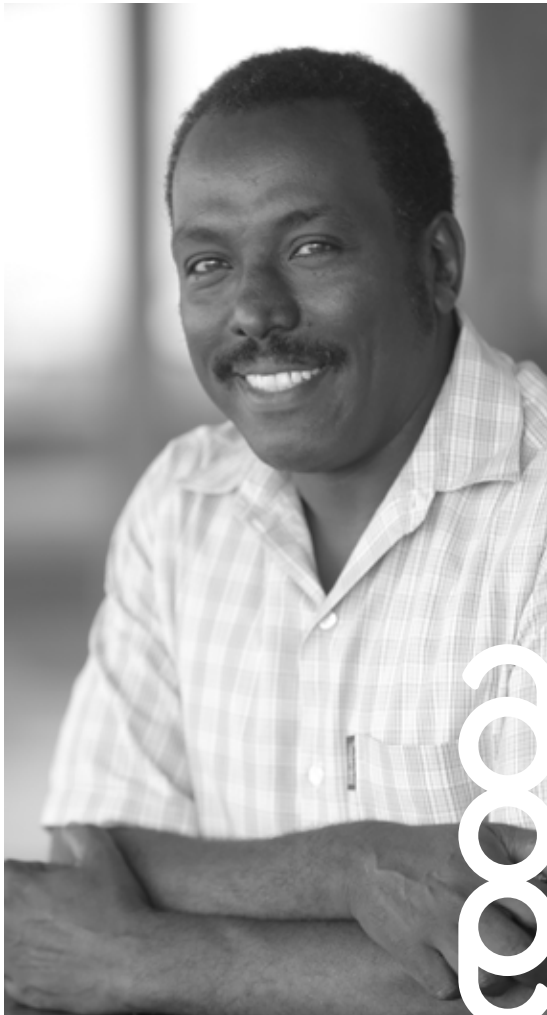
**EDUCATION:** Gashahun Kassahun was born in 1980 in Woliso, Ethiopia. He joined the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design and graduated in 1999. He also graduated from the Teferi Mekonnen College, Department of Fine Arts, specializing in Painting in 2011. Apart from academics, he has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

**CAREER:** Gashahun has participated in many group art exhibitions and has also showcased his work in solo exhibitions. Some of the exhibitions he has participated in include the City Hall in 2000, the Russian Cultural Institute in 2005, the Hilton Ethiopia in 2006 (for children with autism), the Ethiopian National Theater Art Gallery in 2007, the Daberhan Art Gallery (Duka Millennium Exhibition) in 2007, the Hellenic Athletics Association - Greek Club in 2007, the E.C.A. (Economic Commission for Africa) in 2008, the National Theater Art Gallery organized by the Addis Development Vision in 2011.

**INSPIRATION:** Gashahun was recently inspired by 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.







## GETAHUN ASSEFA

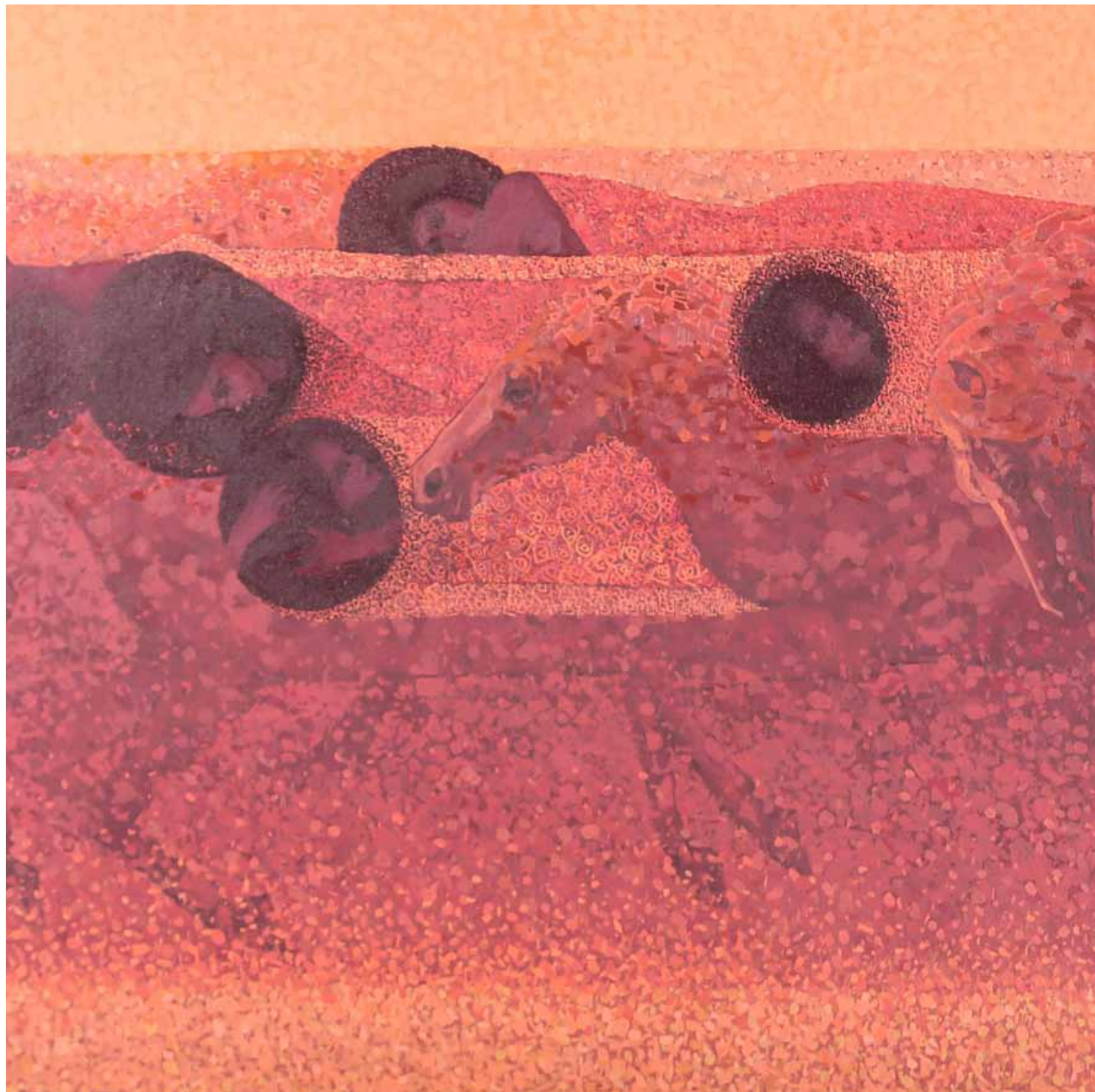
**EDUCATION:** Getahun Assefa studied Painting and Graphics, majoring in Sculpture at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design, and graduated with distinction in 1987. He then moved to Russia's Moscow State Academic Institute of Fine Arts in 1989, where he specialised in Monumental 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.

**CAREER:** 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.

**ACCLAIM:** 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.

**INSPIRATION:** Getahun finds inspiration from natural surroundings and handicrafts. It is the stories conveyed through these that pushed him on the path of art. Whether his mood is joyous or melancholy he expresses it through his paintings.









## GIZACHEW KEBEDE

**EDUCATION:** 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.

**CAREER:** 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.

**INSPIRATION:** Gizachew was born and raised in a rural area abundant with natural beauty and fresh air, and these all inspired him to become an artist. To realize this dream he joined an art school to acquire and hone his skills.











## HENOK DEMESSIE

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

**CAREER:** He has worked as a cartoonist for several local newspapers. He is currently working on designs for several books, as well as preparing for upcoming solo exhibitions.

**INSPIRATION:** As a kid Henok liked to draw things that he liked in the back of his exercise book. His friends and family encouraged him to paint which was important in his becoming an artist. He likes expressing things that he sees, feels and imagines in his paintings.

**NOW:** Since 2006, Henok has been working as a full-time studio artist.







## JOSEPH HABTEMARIAM

**EDUCATION:** Joseph Habtemariam completed his BA from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design with specialization in visual communication (Graphic Art).

**CAREER:** He has participated in many group and solo art exhibitions at home and abroad such as Djibouti, Tanzania, Malawi, and New York.

**INSPIRATION:** He experiments with wood art bringing unique techniques to his work. Most of his paintings focus on women.

**NOW:** Joseph currently works at the Russian Center for Science and Culture (RCSC) in Addis Ababa.









## KEBREAB DEMEKE

**EDUCATION:** 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. He was a founding member of the Niten Art Studio in 2007 and the 41 Art Studio in 2010.

**CAREER:** His work has been exhibited at the Makush Art Gallery, Addis Ababa in 2007, the Listro School of Fine Arts and the Design Gallery, Addis Ababa in 2008, and at an art residency programme in Dire Dawa in 2011.

**INSPIRATION:** 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 color rather than subject matter, as it is extremely effective in arousing feeling and emotion. I want my audience to be immersed in color and shape and from there create their own reality. My abstract work can be seen as whatever the viewer perceives it to be. Each piece then becomes a unique interpretation of each individual’s perception. My art work represents the southern part of Ethiopian people, their lifestyle and various aspects of their way of life”.









## KERIMA AHMED

**EDUCATION:** Kerima Ahmed was born in 1977 in Ethiopia. She graduated from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2002. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethiopian language and literature.

**CAREER:** Since her graduation, she has participated in a number of group and solo art exhibitions held at various galleries, museums, embassies and cultural centers in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Uganda, Austria, Holland and Germany. She contributed to establish Nubia, an artist group in Addis Ababa.

She held a workshop and exhibition at the Sudan University of Science and Technology, College for Fine and Applied Art in 2008. She also held solo exhibitions at the Harare Arthur Rimbaud Museum in 2005 and 2006, the Norm Maxwell Studio Gallery, Los Angeles, California in 2011, the 'C' Art Gallery, Seattle in 2012 and the Colombia City Gallery, Seattle in 2013.

**INSPIRATION:** Her work celebrates not only the values of Ethiopian people but humanity as a whole. She believes art is not bound by geography or language. The things that she paints come from the things that she sees and thinks about.

**NOW:** Kerima is a full-time studio artist based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.







## KOHAR KEVORKIAN

**EDUCATION:** 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. Kohar studied pottery-making in Armenia from 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.

**WORK:** 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.

**CAREER:** 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, channelling what she sees into what she displays.

**INSPIRATION:** Her art conveys emotion, feeling, energy, feminism, colour and the importance of function.

**NOW:** She currently engages in Interior Design and Decorating with her sister through their company "Final Touch".









## LEAYNE TILAHUN

**EDUCATION:** Leayne Tilahun is an Ethiopian artist whose work encompasses a wide spectrum of subjects. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design.

**CAREER:** Leayne's work has been showcased in various solo and group exhibitions. He had his first solo exhibition in 2009 at the Red Cross Hall, Dessie, Ethiopia. He has also participated in a number of group exhibitions held at venues such as the Red Cross Hall - Dessie, the Open Air Exhibition - Dessie, the Ambaras Hotel - Dessie, the Roha Hotel – Lalibela, and the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design.

**INSPIRATION:** Leayne's take on art is reflected in his own words, "Having grown in a town where horses 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".







## LEYKUN GIRMA

**EDUCATION:** Leykun Girma was born on 31st March, 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 to 2004 and then majored in Painting from 2007 to 2009 at the Entoto Technical and Vocational Training College of Fine Arts.

**CAREER:** 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. Some of his selected exhibitions include the Habesha Art Gallery – 2004 & 2005, the One-man exhibition 'Culture and Environment' at the Habesha Art Gallery – 2006, the Alliance Éthio-Française – 2007, the 'Free Art Felega II' at the Goethe Institute – 2008, the One-man exhibition 'Green Beauty' at the Temret Le-Heiwot Ethiopia Art Gallery – 2008, the 'Kilos Street Art' organised by the Atronus Art Studio – 2009.

**INSPIRATION:** Leykun believes that art is something that makes someone travel on his/her own freeway. He looks for inspiration from the environment and uses his imagination to create his 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."







## LEYKUN WONDIFRAW

**EDUCATION:** Leykun Wondifraw was born on 6th September, 1988 in Addis Ababa. He graduated with distinction from the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design.

**CAREER:** His work has been showcased at various group and solo exhibitions such as at the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design, the Alliance Éthio-Française and the National Museum of Ethiopia.

**INSPIRATION:** His themes are mainly focused on reflections. His work depicts his imaginings of the changing seasons. Leykun gives his audiences a feel of seasons, cityscapes as seen from the inside of a car.

**NOW:** He currently works as full-time studio artist.







## LULSEGED RETTA

**EDUCATION:** Lulseged Retta, one of Ethiopia's illustrious artists was born in 1952. His life and work have 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. He continued 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.

**CAREER:** From 1977 to 1979, he worked as a Stage Designer and as the Head of the Art Section at the Hager Fikir Theatre. 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 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. Lulseged has been working with the Art of Ethiopia team since 2008.

**ACCLAIM:** 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.

**INSPIRATION:** Lulseged was attracted by the works of two of Ethiopia's most famous artists - Gebre Kristos Desta and Matre Afrewerk Tekle.



malik 13 02  
Lulseged Retta  
2013





## MAKEDA BIZUNEH

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

**CAREER:** Since her graduation in 2010, Makeda has been serving the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design as an Assistant Lecturer and Curator of the school's gallery. Apart from her academic activities, she has been engaged in her creative experiments at 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 has participated in a number of exhibitions that include the International Art Exhibition under the title of 'Listros a dream in a box' at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2012, a 'Fundraising program for children' at KZ Hotel in 2010, the Four Freedoms Art Competition and an exhibition at the American Embassy in 2010, The First Annual Ethiopian Visual Arts Exhibition at the Laphto Center in 2011, an exhibition titled 'Art in Ethiopian Culture' at WIPO Switzerland in 2012 and an exhibition titled 'Inspired Women' at the Contemporary Art Gallery at the Laphto Center in 2012.

**INSPIRATION:** She expresses her feelings through different forms, lines and colors and represents those houses in patterns.

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







## MERIKOKEB BERHANU

**EDUCATION:** 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.

**CAREER:** 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 at numerous venues such as the Alliance Éthio-Française, the Addis Ababa City Hall, the National Museum, the Lela Art Gallery, the Bulgarian Embassy and the Nubia Visual Art Studio. She also conducted a workshop and an 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 in 2009 and at the Talisman Gallery in Addis Ababa in 2011.

**ACCLAIM:** 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.

**INSPIRATION:** Merikokeb Berhanu communicates through forms, lines and arrangements that visually bring alive her feelings and thoughts. She wants viewers to interpret her images in their own way. Her work is a characterization of life as we are living it, its various complexities and densities that speak of happiness, hopefulness, miseries and blessings.

**NOW:** Having experimented with a variety of art forms, she now works as a studio artist.











## MEZGEBU TESEMA

**EDUCATION:** Mezgebu Tesema is an Ethiopian artist who was born in 1960 in the Northern Shoa Administrative Region of Ethiopia. He attended the Addis Ababa University, 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 Master of Arts degree.

**CAREER:** 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 7-year stint as the Head of 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 the Alliance Éthio-Française. His work has also been showcased in China, Germany, Russia and the United States of America.

**INSPIRATION:** Living in the countryside allowed Mezgebu to develop a certain kinship with nature. The freedom of living in the lap of nature inspired him to paint.







## MULUKEN DEBEBE

**EDUCATION:** Muluken Debebe was born on 29th January, 1978 at Methherara, Ethiopia. He completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design, majoring in Painting.

**CAREER:** Muluken started his career as an Assistant Lecturer at the Entoto TVET College in December 2006 and continued to impart instruction there till September 2010. From September 2010 he has been working as Assistant Lecturer at EIABC (Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development). He has participated in group exhibitions at various venues such as at the Annual Bazar Program of German church in Addis Ababa, the Alliance Éthio-Française, the Entoto TVET College, and the Sheraton Addis. He held a solo exhibition at the Alliance Éthio-Française gallery.

**INSPIRATION:** Muluken likes to teach people the importance things, their usefulness and purpose through his paintings. For example he likes to paint horses and he explains the thought process as follows – “Horses are very useful for people but they abandon or discard them once they are no longer able to work. Through my work I want to show people the importance of horses and create respect for this beautiful creature.”

**NOW:** He is currently working as an Assistant Lecturer at EIABC.







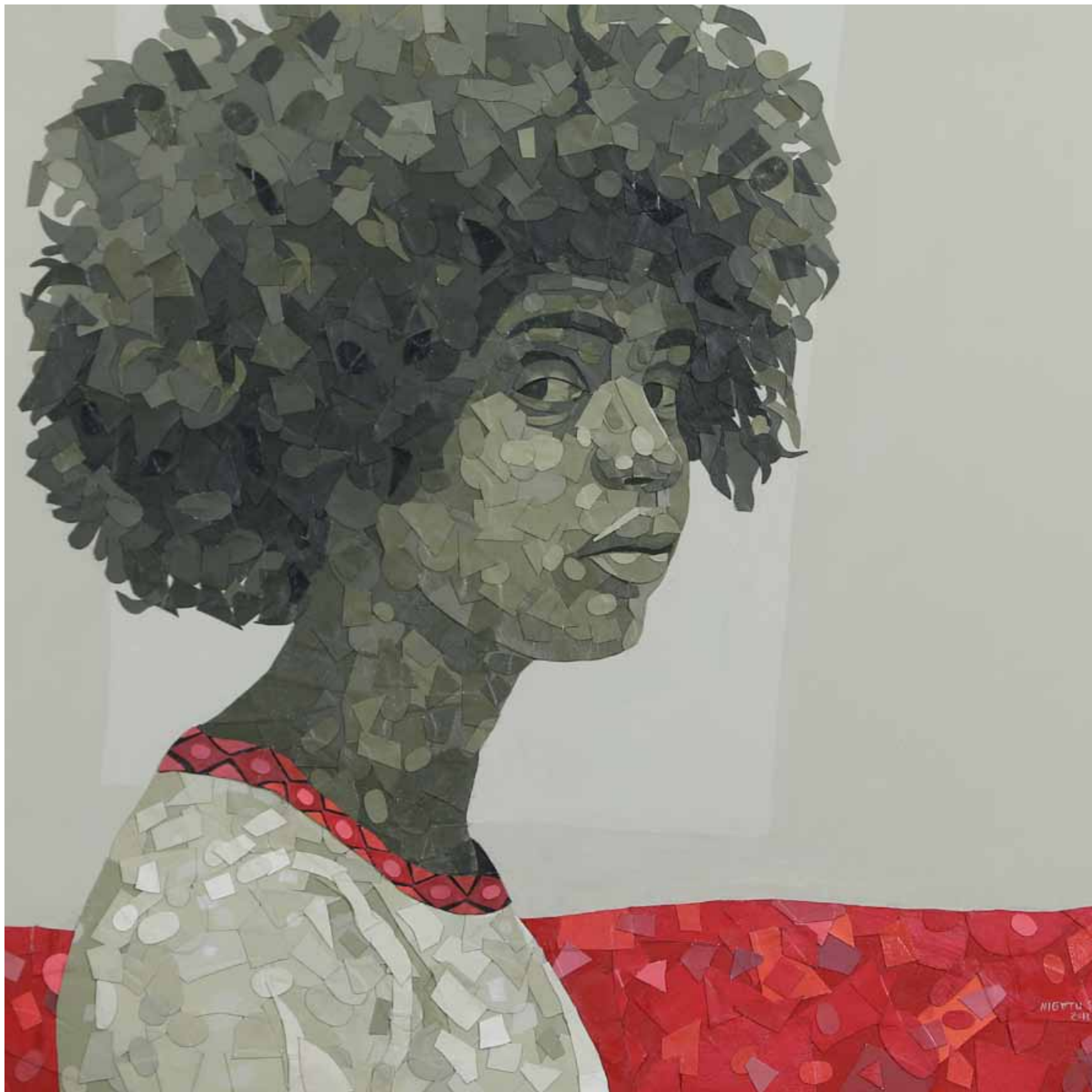
## NIGATU SOLOMON

**EDUCATION:** Nigatu Solomon was born in the town of Dessie, Southern Wollo, in 1986. Growing up with an artist father he got acquainted with art at a very young age. Under his father's apprenticeship he had already developed a strong curiosity and passion towards art and art making before he joined the Pallet Art Center in 1997 to further develop his skills and get introduced to the academic way of art making.

**CAREER:** Nigatu has participated in various exhibitions and events at venues such as the Wollo Bahl Amba Hall in Dessie, the Red Cross Hall in Dessie, the 'Listro Exhibition' at the School of Fine Arts and Design with International Artists in Addis Ababa, the Alliance Ethio France in Addis Ababa and the Asni Art Gallery with the Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations in Addis Ababa.

**INSPIRATION:** His recent works are done with fabrics of different sizes and shapes and overlapped in harmonious manner. The overlapping in turn gives the painting a peculiar tactility. Besides, the low relief formed by the overlapping gives the painting dynamism; as the direction of light changes many elements change along.









## OUSMAN HASSEN

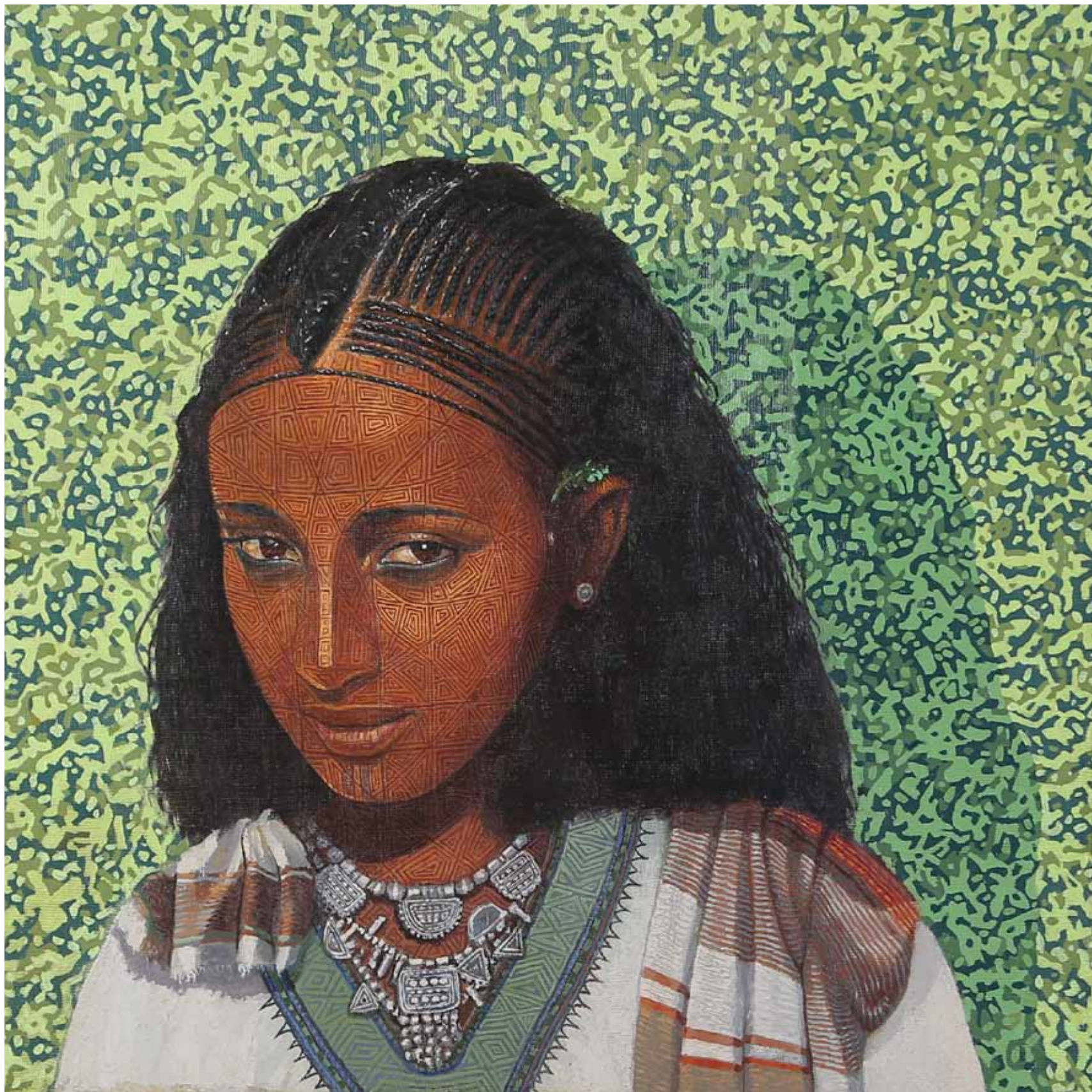
**EDUCATION:** Ousman Hassen Mohammed was born on 20th April, 1986 in Ethiopia. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Industrial Design from Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2008.

**CAREER:** Ousman has participated in various exhibitions that include the South Wollo Kombolca in 2007, group exhibitions at the German Goethe Institute and Gebre Kristos Desta Centre in 2008, at the National Theatre of Addis Ababa in 2009, at the Habesha Art Gallery in 2010 and at the Sidama Lodge Art Gallery in 2011.

**ACCLAIM:** Ousman has received awards and accolades from different art institutes. He was awarded a certificate and medal by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the field of Fine Art, a certificate from Goethe Institute Gebre Kristos Desta Centre and a certificate of participation at Holeta Mosaic Art Festival.

**INSPIRATION:** His work of art concentrates on Ethiopian motifs, heritage and natural texture that he executes through the portraits of human beauty.









## REDIET SISAY

**EDUCATION:** Rediet Sisay is an artist, craft & interior designer. She was born on 17th June, 1985 in Ethiopia. She received a certificate in Painting & Graphic Designing from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2006.

**CAREER:** She started her career as a Studio Artist in 2003 but in 2005 she joined Redi's Collection as a designer. Her exhibitions include:

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

**INSPIRATION:** As a three year old Rediet was lucky to have a talented art teacher whose work inspired her to become an artist. Most of Rediet's works show deep and natural feelings, emotions, and love that she experiences as a woman. She believes that these feelings, emotions and experiences shape who we are and what we can accomplish later in life. The bold colors represent the inside and outside of a woman's beauty. The different movements and big shapes indicate the reaction and response of women to the various issues they face in everyday life. The pieces used from the newspaper show the knowledge, ideas and values that women acquire from the struggles of everyday life. In general her artwork revolves around telling the stories of women who went through various life experiences and the change it brought in their character which later shapes their future prospect.









## SAMUEL HAILU

**EDUCATION:** Samuel Hailu is an Ethiopian artist born on 8th June, 1988 at Wolkite, Gurage Zone in Southern Ethiopia. In 2009, he joined the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design and 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.

**CAREER:** In 2003 & 2004, he displayed his solo art exhibitions in Wolkite, his hometown.

**ACCLAIM:** 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 the Embassy of the United States of America.

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 won the 2nd prize in painting.

**INSPIRATION:** Whenever painters from Addis Ababa came to Samuel's community to paint and decorate the walls of a restaurant or a bar, he along with others used to watch them work until they had finished. It was an amazing experience for him and in many ways pushed him to become an artist. After finishing high school he started decorating sign boards like them but later joined art school to get formal training.







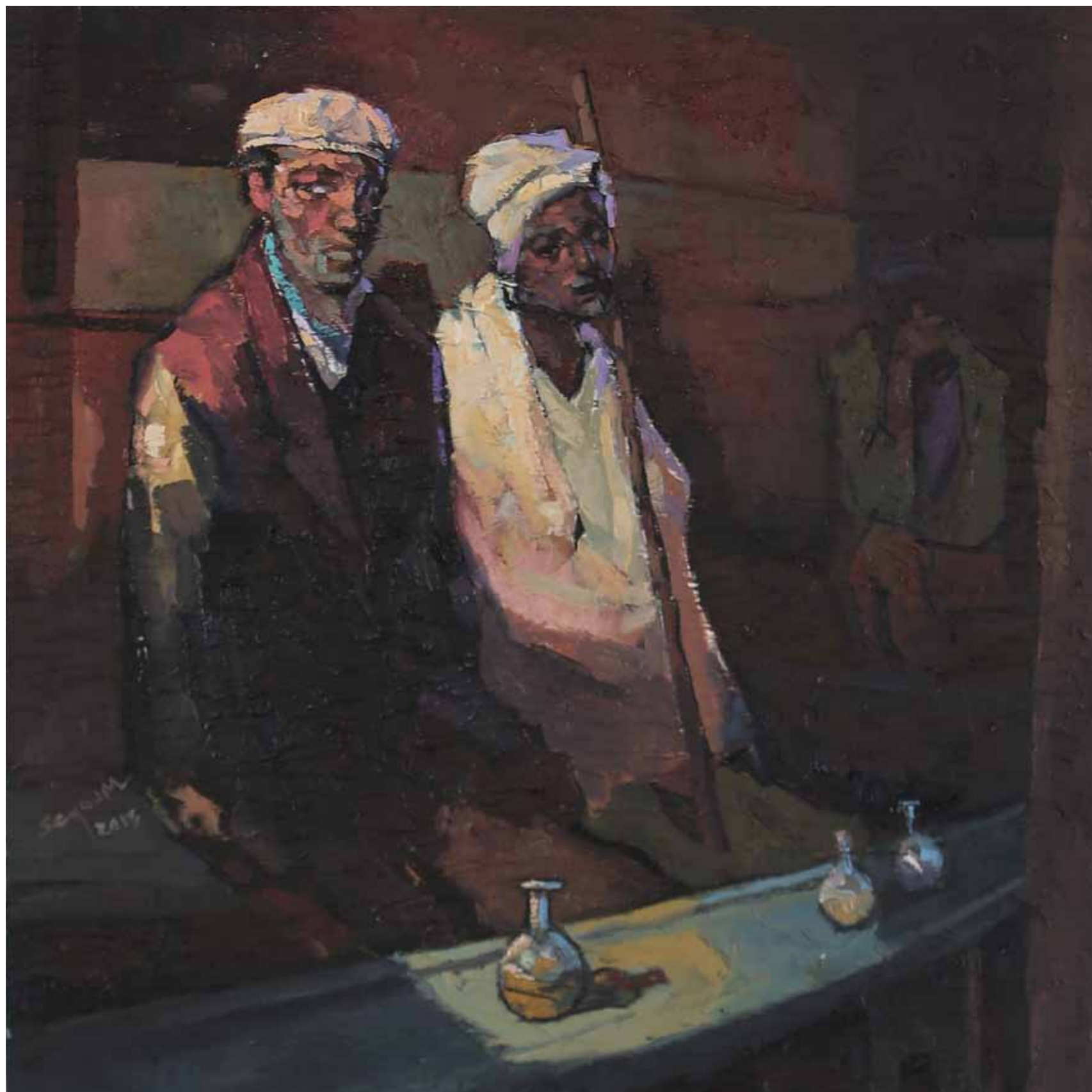
## SEYOUM AYALEW

**BACKGROUND:** Seyoum Ayalew is a contemporary Ethiopian artist whose art focuses on capturing real moments happening around him.

**CAREER:** Seyoum participated in the Art And Culture Panel at the World Economic Forum 2012. He has participated in several solo and group exhibitions in Ethiopia as well as other places across the world such as Djibouti, New York, Atlanta, Nigeria, Germany, England and China.

**INSPIRATION:** Seyoum's work is always focused on 'Tej Bet'. Tej Bet is the traditional drink house, a place where traditions, cultures, friendships mingle beautifully. The fact that Tej Bet has been there since the birth of Ethiopia and the drink (Tej) is favored by most Ethiopians inspired Seyoum to bring it back to its past glory.

**NOW:** Seyoum currently serves as President of the Ethiopian Visual Artists Association.





## SOFIE KIFLE

**EDUCATION:** Sofia Kifle is a US-based Ethiopian artist. She received her MFA from Howard University.

**CAREER:** Her art has graced numerous prestigious art exhibitions around the world. These include:

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

**INSPIRATION:** I am layers... So many experiences... My senses are primal... Within the chaos... There is always something emerging... Always looking...

The asymmetrical and primal method is the means for stitching and resolving the painting. The primal route is by no means a defiance of the tradition. It is a chosen departure. The inspiration in music, dance and cinema, at the present time, has moved her to explore different, loose and imperfect approach of the picture plane. The movement and rhythm of external and internal ideas, a concept of arranging and rearranging maze of forms, a spontaneous discovery within the painting and extensions of visual and acoustic observations has inspired her to experiment. This wonderment has brought her to experience freedom, to explore the aesthetic balance of one's experiments through random act of painting, and accidental discoveries.









## TADESSE MESFIN

**EDUCATION:** Tadesse Mesfin graduated with great distinction from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 1972. In 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.

**CAREER:** He worked as a Stage and Costume Designer for the National Theatre from 1973 to 1977. He has held solo exhibitions for his work and has participated in many group exhibitions around the world. His art has been showcased throughout Ethiopia and in other countries including China, former Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, France, Nigeria, Russia, Tunisia and the United States of America.

**ACCLAIM:** In 1998, he won the Mid-American Arts Alliance (MAAA) fellowship to the United States of America. He was awarded the Ethiopian Fine Arts & Mass Media Prize for Painting the following year.

**INSPIRATION:** Tadesse's father and grandfather used to paint church walls when he was a kid. Growing in this environment he picked up the art. He used to copy their paintings on his legs and hands and that is how he was inspired to become an artist.

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







## TEFERI MEKONNEN

**EDUCATION:** 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.

**CAREER:** He has been self-employed since then, creating logo designs besides other assignments for various commercial enterprises. 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.

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

**INSPIRATION:** Teferi was lucky to grow close to an art school which gave him the opportunity to meet various artists and see their work. These early experiences motivated him to become an artist.

**NOW:** He currently operates out of his own studio, catering to individuals, hotels, offices and other organisations.







## TESFAYE BEKELE

**EDUCATION:** Born in 1982, Tesfaye Bekele grew up in Addis Ababa during a shifting cultural and political landscape in the country. As a young child he began drawing art out of interest as a way to document the images in his community. In 2007 he joined the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design to pursue a degree in art education.

**CAREER:** Tesfaye participated in the Addis Photo Fest (2010), which was organized as part of an exchange program between German and Ethiopian students in Berlin and Addis. He also exhibited a group show in the Atelier Art Gallery. In 2011 he won the Fana Wogi Award, which the Gebre Kristos Desta Museum of Modern Art honors one of the seven Fana Wogi finalists whose work is found to be particularly outstanding in terms of originality and its creative implementation. He participated in the Art of Ethiopia 2011. He also worked for various community art workshops available in the country such as art workshops in the prisons of young children, art therapy for persons with HIV Aids, art workshops for orphanage children in various NGOs.

**INFLUENCE:** The focus of his work and his own philosophy of life concern natural and environmental issues such as technology and city life versus nature and how there can be an abuse of technology. He believes that unless we begin to take serious care of nature, everything may be transformed into an artificial world.

**INSPIRATION:** Tesfaye is inspired by nature and natural forms as well as things that capture his imagination. These influences are transferred into his work, through which he communicates with his audiences. Most of his paintings may not be definitive in their form or content rather built on abstract forms, events and objects, but nonetheless convey wonder and mystery.

**NOW:** Currently he teaches art at the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design.







## TESFAYE ASEFA (TESFU)

**EDUCATION:** 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.

**CAREER:** 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, the 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 the Alliance Éthio-Française group exhibition in 2002 & 2007, the Lucy Gallery in 2006, the My Flyover Art Centre in 2004, the Zion Art Centre in 2003, the Ethiopian National Museum in 2002, and the Addis Ababa Ethnographic Museum group exhibition in 2000.







## TEWODROS GIRMA

**EDUCATION:** Tewodros Girma was born in 1979 in Negele Borana, Ethiopia. He 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 2007, he graduated from Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts & Design with a Bachelor of Arts degree, specializing in Painting.

**CAREER:** In 1998, he was a resident in Awassa and worked as an amateur artist. 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. Tewodros is a part-time Instructor at the Next Fashion Designing Institute.

**ACCLAIM:** He got the First Prize at the 'Regional Art Competition' which was organized by the Southern Nations Nationalities and People, Cultural Bureau of Awassa.

**INSPIRATION:** Tewodros is driven by a strong desire to express himself through his art. It was this desire to express that pushed him to become an artist.

**NOW:** 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 HAGOS

**EDUCATION:** Tewodros Hagos was born in 1974 in Addis Ababa. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 1995.

**CAREER:** 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.

**INSPIRATION:** Even as a kid he felt a certain attachment towards life and the ways of life that people take. As an artist he prefers expressing his feelings in painting rather than in writing and he believes he has inherited it.







## WORKU GOSHU

**EDUCATION:** 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.

**CAREER:** 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.

**INFLUENCE:** The privileged few who have seen his art would agree that it is an experience in itself that serves to open your imagination.

**INSPIRATION:** 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.

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









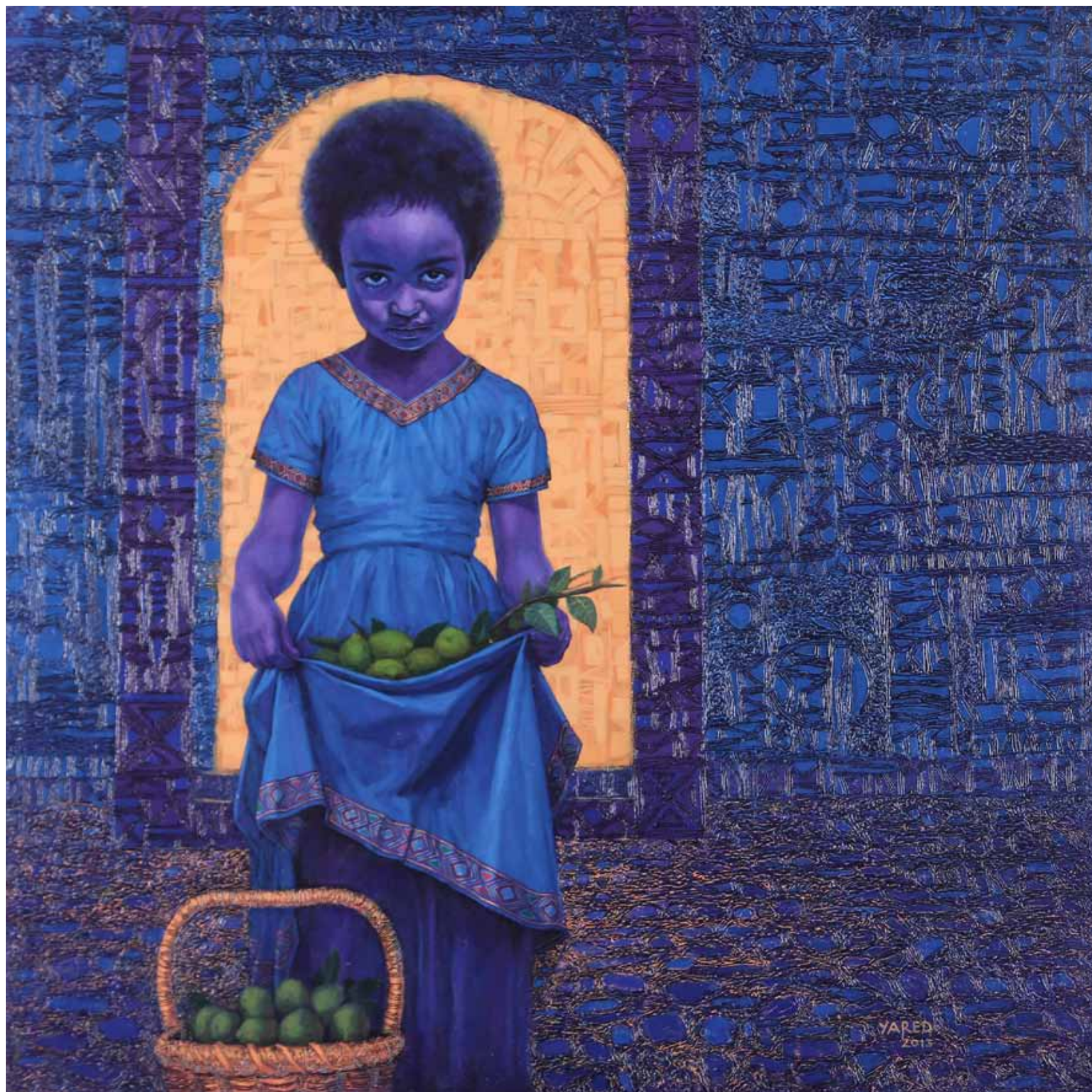
## YARED OLIVELLI

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

**CAREER:** Since 2010, he has been working as an Instructor at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design. Yared's work has featured in solo and group exhibitions in Addis Ababa and other countries. These include the Red Cross Hall – Dessie in 2004, the Adama in 2005, the Makush Art Gallery-Addis Ababa in 2007, the Lalibela Exhibition Centre in 2008, the Listro School of Fine Arts Gallery with international artists in Addis Ababa & Germany in 2008 and the US Embassy, Addis Ababa in 2009.

**INSPIRATION:** The old master painters like Picasso and William Adolph are the ones whose work inspired Yared to become an artist.









## YITAGESU MERGIA

**EDUCATION:** Yitagesu Mergia was born in Addis Ababa in 1970. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design.

**CAREER:** He has conducted a number of solo and group art exhibitions at venues that include the Bulgarian Embassy, the Greek Community, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Swedish School, the Alliance Éthio-Française, the 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.





## YODIT ASSEFA



**EDUCATION:** Yodit Assefa was born in 1978 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In school she got interested in various forms of art. She started participating in art competitions and was awarded a trip to Paris. After graduating from high school, she enrolled at the Abyssinia Fine Arts & Vocational Training Center and studied general arts for two years. After that she attended the TVET College of Fine Arts and mastered in sculpture.

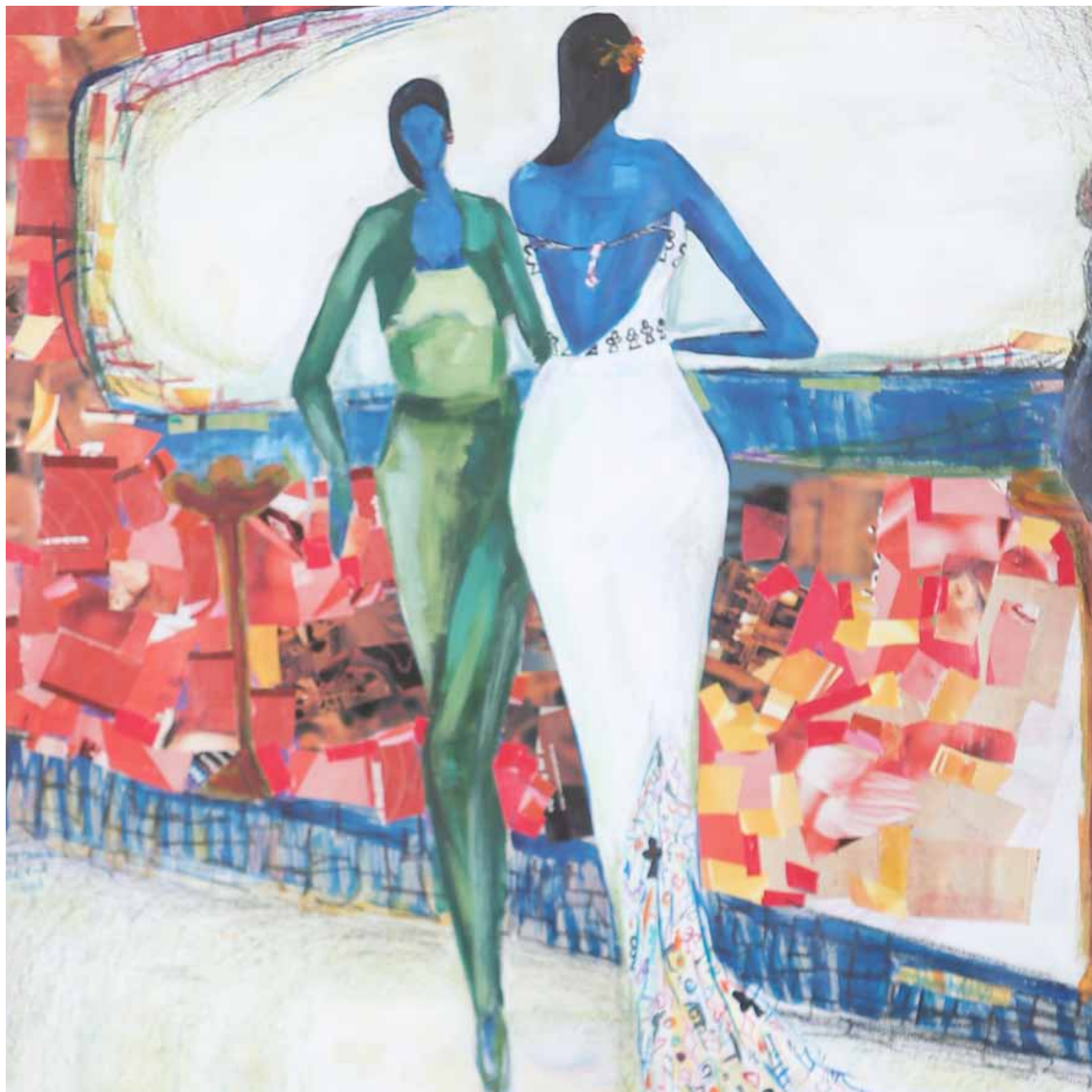
**CAREER:** Yodit has participated in art exhibitions held at various prestigious institutions such as the Addis Ababa Museum, the Eden Genet Hall, the Beherawi Theatre, the TVET College of Fine Arts (video art exhibition) and the Ethiopian National Museum.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Yodit has received recognition from prominent art institutes from around the world. She received a certificate from Hilton hotel of Addis Ababa Art Show presented by the most honorable maître artist world laureate Afework Tekle. She has also been awarded a certificate on the Face of Women Art Exhibition, a certificate on Women's Day Art Exhibition, a certificate of participation from the Embassy of the United States of America, a certificate of Participation & Training from the Ethiopian Youth Network and a Diploma from a Swedish institute.

**INSPIRATION:** Yodit's work expresses her thoughts, feelings and what she observes around herself. Although some of her work has hidden beauty, yet she tries to explain it in the simplest manner possible.

She believes life is a gamble with lots of ups and downs and it is through the strength of character and the spirit of humanity that one can achieve one's goals.

**NOW:** Currently she is a Scientific Cast Technician at the Ethiopian National Museum, (ARCCH).







## YONAS MELESA

**EDUCATION:** Yonas Melesa was born in 1982 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He received his initial training in art at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design where he was awarded a certificate in 2006. He later enrolled at the Entoto TVET College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where he earned a Diploma in Fine Art/Graphics Art.

**CAREER:** Yonas has participated in various group exhibitions in Ethiopia and around the world. Some of the exhibitions where he has showcased his work include Ethiopia Creates, USA, the Diani Beach Art Gallery, Kenya, the Four Freedoms Art Competition, the United States of America Embassy, the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design, the UNICEF and the Addis Ababa Museum.

**INSPIRATION:** Yonas is open to everything around him; he believes the world is a sort of cultural university that is open to all. For him art serves as a channel of expression to release, elevate, and understand our inner conflicts, fears, and tensions as well as our aspirations, hopes and ideals. He also participates in various artistic and social activities.

**NOW:** Currently Yonas is a full-time studio artist.



YONA MELESA  
2012





## YONATAN WONDWOSEN

**EDUCATION:** Ethiopian artist, Yonatan Wondwosen, was born in 1988 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design's Sculpture Department.

**CAREER:** He has participated in several workshops and courses in photography, bronze casting & illustration of books. He has participated in several group exhibitions in Ethiopia at venues that include the Alliance Éthio-Française, the American Embassy, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Gojo Art Gallery, the Beharawi Theater, the Listro School of Fine Arts Gallery in Addis Ababa University and the Taitu Hotel.

**NOW:** He is now a full-time studio artist.



Yonatan W  
2013





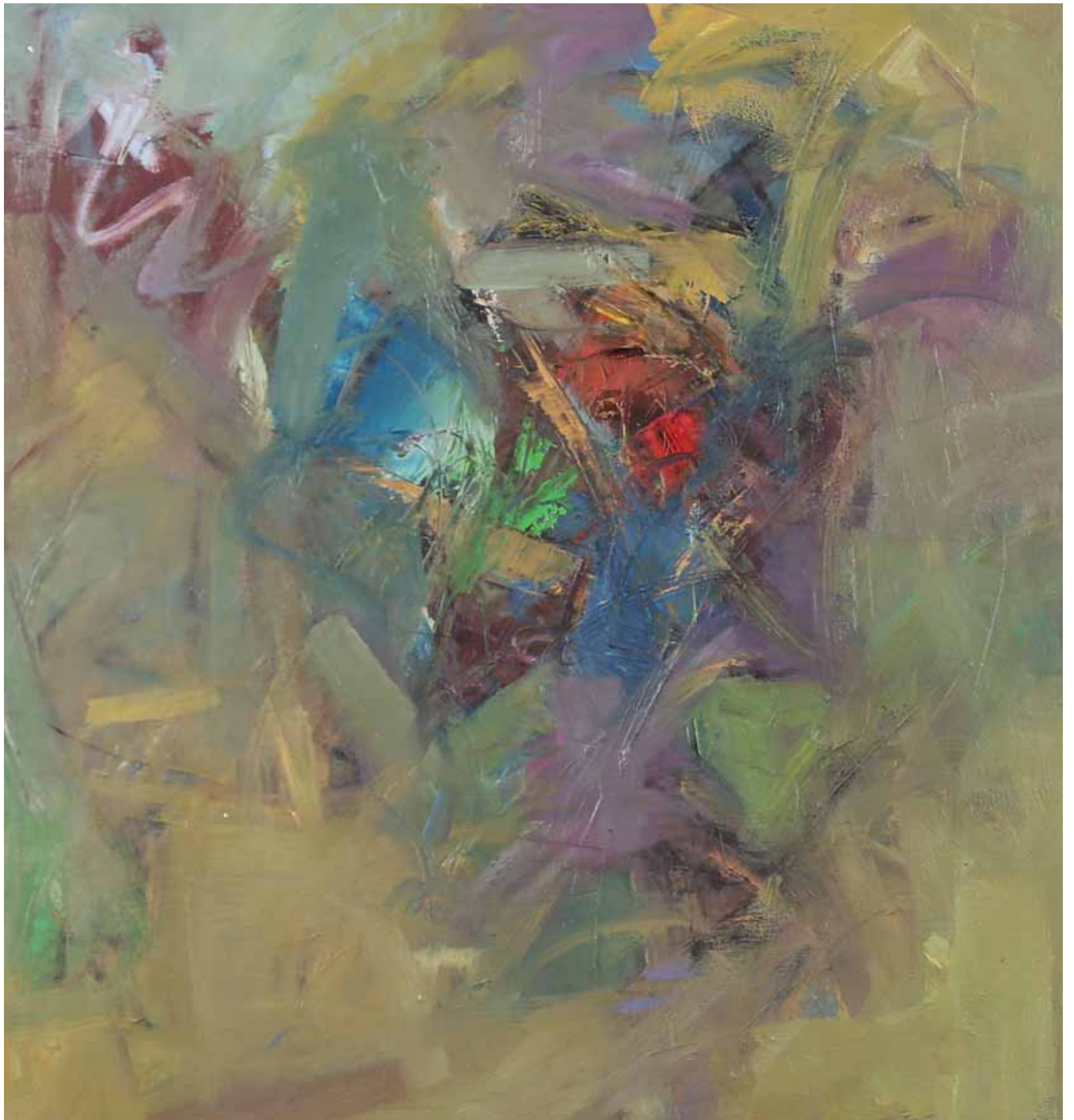
## YOSEF LULE

**EDUCATION:** Yosef Lule is an Ethiopian artist who was born in 1977 in Assela, Ethiopia. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001.

**CAREER:** Since graduating from Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001 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, the Alliance Éthio-Française and the French Embassy. He has also held solo exhibitions at the National Theatre Art Gallery and the Alliance Éthio-Française. His work has also been showcased internationally in France, Switzerland and the United States of America.

**INSPIRATION:** 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."

**NOW:** He currently works as a full-time artist at the Habesha Art Studio.



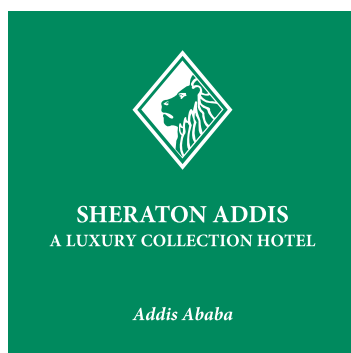












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