



art of ethiopia 2014

www.artofethiopia.com



FEATURED ARTISTS

Aberham Debebe
Abera Abreha
Abyalew Assefa
Addis Gezehagn
Amanuel Gebre Michael
Behailu Bezabih
Bisrat Shibabaw
Daniel Taye
Dawit Abebe
Desta Hagos
Emanuel Tegene
Ephrem Solomon Tegegn
Ermias Shiberu
Fitsum Wubeshet
Gashahun Kassahun
Getahun Assefa
Gizachew Kebede

Habtamu Tibebe
Joseph Habtemariam
Kebreab Demeke
Kerima Ahmed
Kidist Berhane
Kohar Kevorkian
Leayne Tilahun
Leykun Wondifraw
Lulseged Retta
Mekasha Etebo
Merikokeb Berhanu
Mezgebu Tesema
Muluken Debebe
Nigatu Solomon
Ousman Hassen Mohammed
Rediet Sisay
Ruth Teferi

Samuel Hailu
Seyoum Ayalew
Tesfaye Asefa (Tesfu)
Tewodros Girma
Tizita Berhanu
Wendimagegn Gashaw Demeke
Worku Goshu
Yared Olivelli
Yishak Hagos
Yitagesu Mergia
Yodit Assefa
Yohannes Bayou Fikre
Yonas Hailu Zewde
Yonas Melesa
Yonatan Wondwosen
Yosef Lule



Jean Pierre Manigoff, R
General Manager

The Art of Ethiopia 2014 is 7th edition in the series of the show. In 2008 when the show began, it started with only 8 contemporary artists and has rapidly grown into the biggest art event in the country with 50 artists exhibiting nearly 500 works of art. Each year, the show has served as a snapshot of the evolution of contemporary art in the country. This year's show is no different but differs in style and form.

What is clear to all art aficionados is contemporary Ethiopia art has changed dramatically in these last 7 years. Style, content, creativity, and mediums have totally taken on a new direction making the Ethiopian art scene very contemporary and elevating Ethiopian artists to the global stage with many artists exhibiting internationally at galleries and shows around the world. As each year has proven, being selected for the Art of Ethiopia show becomes more competitive each year with many talents artists applying for an opportunity to be exhibited. This year's group of artists, represent a cross section of contemporary Ethiopian art representing the rapidly evolving contemporary trend in art which closely mirrors that rapidly changing landscape of society.

Oscar Wilde once said 'Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known'. Walking through show, one sees 50 very talented and individualistic artists who have shared their inner most feelings with us through their works.

Enjoy this 7th edition of the Art of Ethiopia show and the passion of each artist.



Marina Emphietzi-Harris
Fine Artist and Curator
www.marinaharris.com

Dear art aficionados,

Welcome to the 7th edition of the Art of Ethiopia show.

As a fellow artist and curator, being associated with the Art of Ethiopia show over the last few years has been a privilege for me.

I have been able to see how individual artist has grown and expanded their horizons through their works by trying new mediums and expressing themselves in totally different ways. This is the very basic ingredient of becoming a great artist – the ability to express oneself in many different ways and to create beautiful art which will stand the test of time.

The Romans and Greeks left humanity a rich artistic history carved in marble. Other civilizations have left other art legacies and collectively through the ages, what stands the test of time, usually gets labelled as ancient or classic and appreciated through visits to museums. Today's contemporary art will one day also belong to the same category.

Enjoy the inspiring show.



Art... The Horizon of Music

The wonderful achievements of the past 6 years at Art of Ethiopia bring a sense of joy and pleasure.

The Art of Ethiopia exhibitions started six 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 that whether in nature or in human life the boundary between what's real and unreal is very thin. It's all an illusion. What seems unreal has an impact on our real lives. This is what inspires his art.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



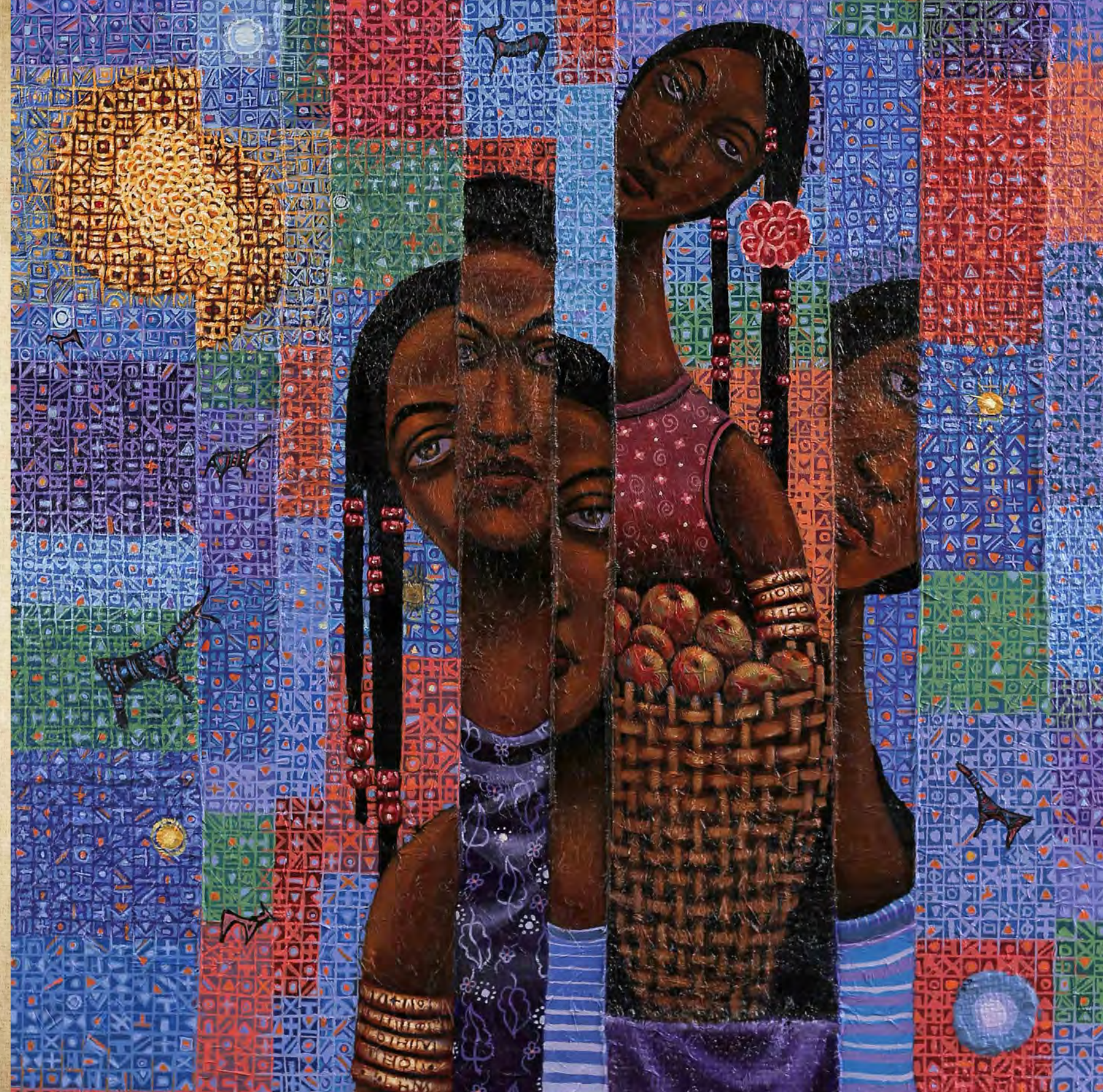


ABERA ABREHA

EDUCATION: Abera Abreha was born in June 1988 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He graduated from the AAU School of Fine Arts and Design in 2010 from the department of Industrial Design. Moreover he has exhibited his work locally and internationally.

CAREER: Abera Abreha teaches design at the AAU Alle School of Fine Arts and Design. As a budding artist his work has been exhibited at the art exhibition in Addis Abeba University, School of Fine Arts and Design. His work has also graced the Makush Art Gallery (Addis Ababa), Listro Art Exhibition, Ethio (Germany), American Embassy (Addis Ababa) and the UNFPA.

NOW: Since his graduation he has been working as a design instructor at the Fine Art School of Addis Ababa University in the industrial design department.



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.

Since 2009 he has been organizing annual exhibitions in collaboration with Sidama Lodge, thereby providing a platform for many young artists to present their art and acquaint themselves with the audience.

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).

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.





ADDIS GEZEHAGN

EDUCATION: Addis Gezehagn was born on 13th July, 1978 in Addis Ababa. He recieved a BFA degree with distinction from the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design.

CAREER: After graduating in 2001, Addis worked as a full-time artist at the Ethiopiawi 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. Addis prefers to work in acrylic's flat, dry look.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



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 in New York.



BEHAILU BEZABIH

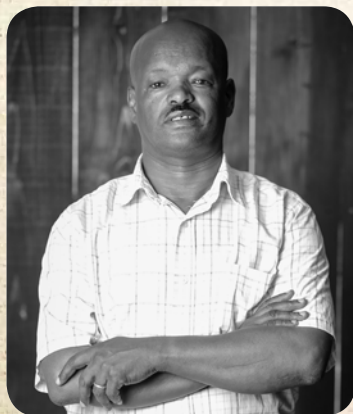
EDUCATION: Behailu Bezabih is a multidisciplinary artist who was born in 1960 in Ethiopia. Behailu holds an MFA in New Media from the Transart Institute, Berlin and New York.

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.

INSPIRATION: Behailu finds inspiration from a mix of traditions and contemporary phenomenon. He brings various elements and experiences from society, politics and history into his work.

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





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.

INSPIRATION: Bisrat draws inspiration for her work from music, poems, folk stories and nature. She is also inspired by the world of toys, for she sees in them a reflection of human behavior.

NOW: Works as a part-time artist.



DANIEL TAYE

EDUCATION: Daniel Taye was born on 5th January, 1968. He studied painting at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design, and graduated with distinction in 1990.

CAREER: He worked with the Ministry of Mines and Energy from 1991 till 1993. This experience provided him with a wealth of material for his paintings and also started his preoccupation with the human condition. Many of his canvasses have captured the changing faces of Addis Ababa. 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.

INSPIRATION: In his works Daniel tries to capture the changing face of Addis Ababa. Daniel's work readily draws from the concept of reality and appearance which he showcases in his paintings of shadows, locked doors, nails on chairs, mousetraps on beds, etc.

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





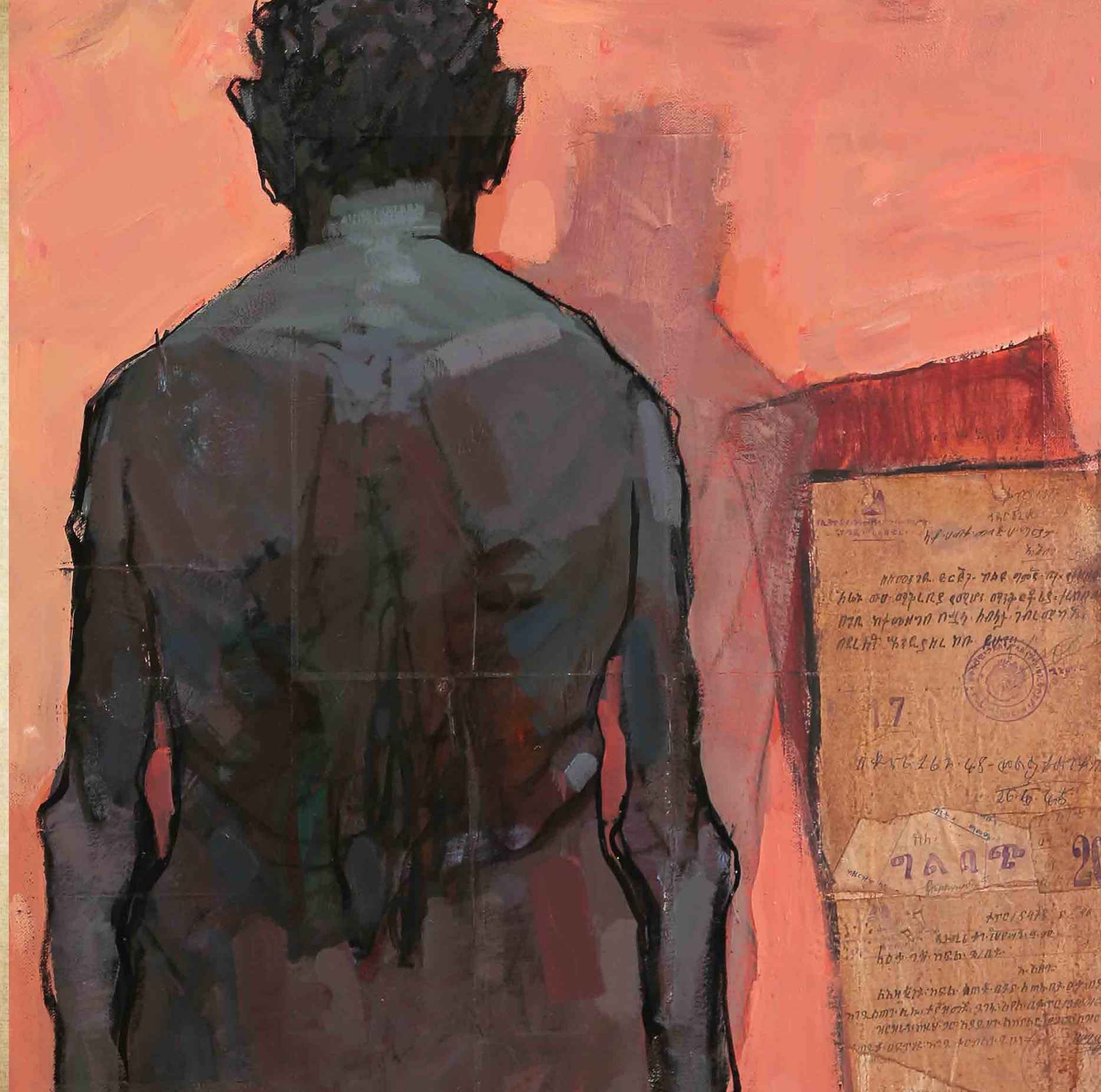
DAWIT ABEBE

EDUCATION: Dawit Abebe was born in Addis Ababa in 1979. As a kid he was passionate about art. 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. His work is part of the permanent collection at Saatchi Art Gallery in London where he has also held a feature exhibition.

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. The inspiration for his work comes from stories, some fleeting moments, social, political and human interactions.

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. In 2014 she was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award in Art Tribute by Capital Hotel.

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



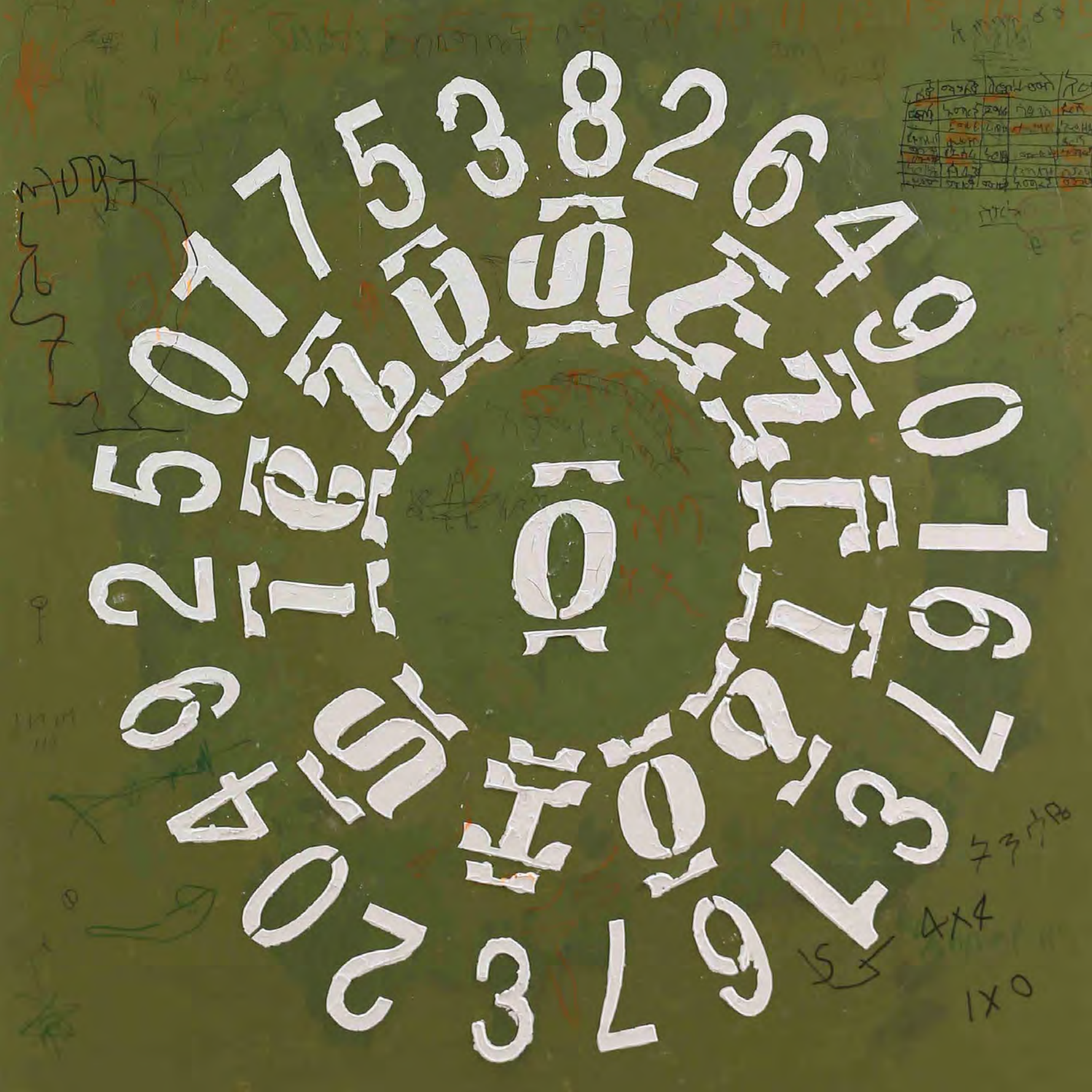
EMANUEL TEGENE

EDUCATION: Emanuel Tegene was born on 29th August, 1985 in Ethiopia. He 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. 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. He had a solo exhibition, 'Angels and Demons' at Alliance Éthio-Française and another at Galani Cafe.

INSPIRATION: His work brings out a beautiful relation that we, as people have with numbers. He believes whether we are inquiring into the past or trying to understand the present and future, numbers play an essential role.

NOW: Currently Emanuel works as a studio artist.



EPHREM SOLOMON TEGEGN

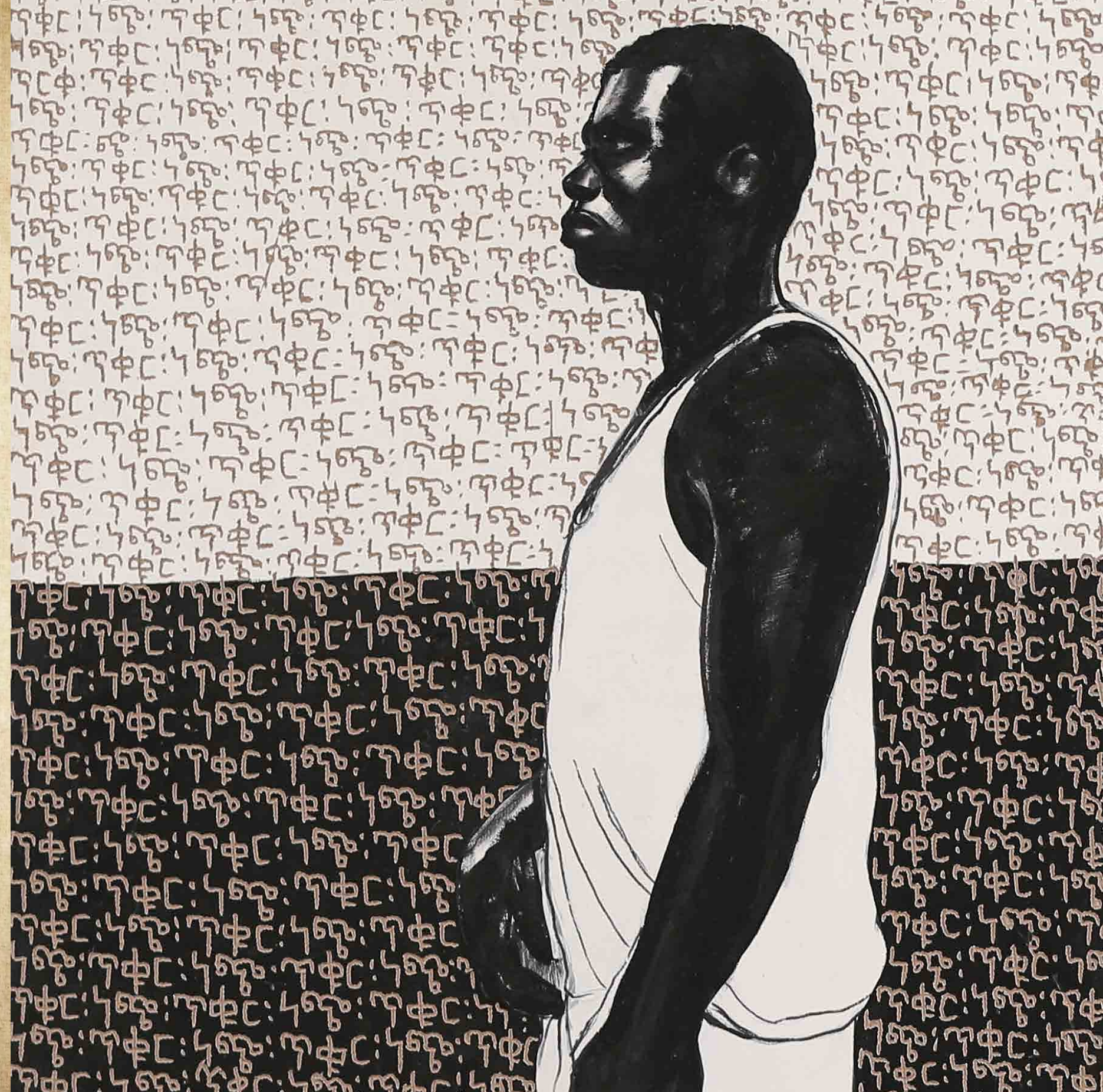
EDUCATION: Ephrem Solomon Tegegn was born in Addis Ababa in 1983. After finishing high school he joined an art school to pursue his interest in art. In 2009 he completed a diploma in Fine Art and Graphic Arts at the Entoto TVET College in Addis Ababa.

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. In 2014 he had another solo exhibition - 'Untitled Life in London.'

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.

His process of production involves walks in the city where he observes people and their relation to the space around them.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



ERMIAS SHIBERU

EDUCATION: Ermias 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: Ermias 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 organizations.

INSPIRATION: Ermias always wanted to become an artist. The love for art runs in his blood. He is inspired by the works of legendary Ethiopian artist Afowerk Tekle. He loves working on natural objects like wood and stones. He decided to become an artist after reading Michelangelo's and Leonardo Da Vinci's books.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.





FITSUM WUBESHET

EDUCATION: Born in 1981, Fitsum Wubeshet is a self taught artist based in Addis Ababa. He studied painting and sculpting at Master Fine Arts School and Abyssinia Fine Arts and Vocational School.

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. His most recent works were displayed in the 201 “Art of Ethiopia” exhibition that was held at the Sheraton Addis and at Sidama Lodge in Addis Ababa.

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 Ethiopian National Theater Art Gallery in 2007, the Daberkhan 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 the Sheraton Addis in 2012 and 2013, and the Ethiopian National Museum in 2014.

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.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



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 specialized 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, graffito, 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. He has created a 14m heroic sculpture and a 26m monument with mosaic art in Hawass city.

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 melancholic he expresses it through his paintings. He believes in the spirit of humanity that brings people together in good and bad times.

NOW: Works as a part-time artist.



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. The changing seasons, the subtlety of natural phenomena, the culture and the traditions all find their way into his work. His artistic expression is based on a belief that art and culture is a living memory of what humans have achieved and a path towards reaching the inner knowledge of what our future could be. He is also inspired by the works of well known artists like Worku Goshu, Tedesse Mesfin, Chagal, Pollock and Kandinsky.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.





HABTAMU TIBEBE

EDUCATION: Habtamu Tibebe was born in Addis Ababa in 1990. He attended high and preparatory school in GCA. He further went on to join Alle School of Fine Arts and Design at the Addis Ababa University to pursue his degree in graphics designing.

CAREER: In 2012 he participated in the Art Work competition presented by UNFPA at the Sheraton Addis. As a young and upcoming artist, his work has featured in major Ethiopian art galleries such as the National Theater Art Gallery, Art Galley of Alle School of Fine Arts, National Museum Art Gallery, to name a few.

INSPIRATION: He was one of the few artists who participated in a documentary that was conducted by Norwegian artists. He seeks inspiration in the patterns of butterflies, history, especially of his country and he loves to capture human faces in different hues.

NOW: Currently he works 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: Joseph loves to travel because it brings him closer to different people, cultures and lifestyles, which provide him with the material for his work. He gets ideas for his sketches while walking through the roads of Addis Ababa.

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. I believe my art space is in the society. The artist is far from society and at the same time lives inside the society. As an artist, I deal with different kinds of unexpected realities and difficulties. I also experience jubilation and harmony. Creating art helps me explore the relationship between people and their surroundings. My art helps me to expose my feelings, thoughts, emotions and imagination. My inspiration comes from everything I observe therefore; my art is not limited to specific style or theme. I work with different types of subjects and media. I use art as a weapon to express my thoughts about social issues. The components of my art are freedom, discipline, and energy.”

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



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. The colors, lines, textures, forms in her paintings are usually driven by the mood and feeling she is experiencing at a particular point in time. She compares her art to music or poetry that has its own sound and melody. It has its own flow and creates visual music in the mind of the viewer.

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





KIDIST BERHANE

EDUCATION: Kidist Berhane was born in Addis Ababa in 1982. After completing her high school, she joined The Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001.

CAREER: After she completed her graduation in 2003, she began working as a studio artist. She has had many single and group exhibitions to her credit. Her paintings have featured in many major galleries in Addis and in international art galleries. She has featured in Habesha, St. George Art Gallery, and her work can be found in Dubai art galleries as well. Many collectors and individuals who have bought her paintings have given her encouraging comments and appreciation.

INSPIRATION: Her paintings mainly focus on the life and culture of the southern people of Ethiopia (such as the Hammer people), life of Ethiopian women in general, nature, beauty and environment. Her works originate from her observation of the moving events of life and her sole desire is to move people by her art.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



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 leather carpets and bags exhibit a workmanship that blends traditional and modern techniques, to produce stylish, contemporary and high quality products. 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, 2011, 2012 and 2013 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.

INSPIRATION: Her art conveys emotion, feeling, energy, feminism, colour and the importance of function. For the 2014 Sheraton Art of Ethiopia Exhibition, she is showcasing her latest creations of art and home accessories using recycled materials. Her inspiration to use recycled materials goes beyond her commitment to the environment. For her, recycling is a metaphor for rejuvenation, new beginning and beauty.

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 complex 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".

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



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 in 2011.

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, Radisson Blu Addis Ababa, Lafto Art Gallery and the National Museum of Ethiopia.

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

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



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 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 Afework Tekle.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



MEKASHA ETEBO

EDUCATION: Mekasha Etebo was born in Addis Ababa in 1991. He completed his high school from Zeway High School. Due to his close association with fellow artist Tamerat Georgis he was able to grasp more about art and techniques. After completing his school, he joined Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in the year 2010.

CAREER: In just his second year of art school he participated in a student exhibition, which was held at an art school gallery for which he received positive feedback. Post this encouragement he participated in many group exhibitions such as the ones held in Conso Cultural Museum and Ethiopia National Museum. In his final year, he participated in a group exhibition titled Art Meets Fashion at Golagol Tower that was presented by Mercy Décor and Modeling School.

INSPIRATION: He is inspired by the Ethiopian alphabet. His work highlights the different shapes and character of letters. The purpose behind his work he believes is to promote Ethiopia and to make the Ethiopian alphabet an icon of Ethiopia.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



MERIKOKEB BERHANU

EDUCATION: Born in Addis Ababa in 1977, Merikokeb 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 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. The life that we are passing, the complication, the density, the crowd, the smoke, happiness and hope entice her and cause the inner section that leads to her art.

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



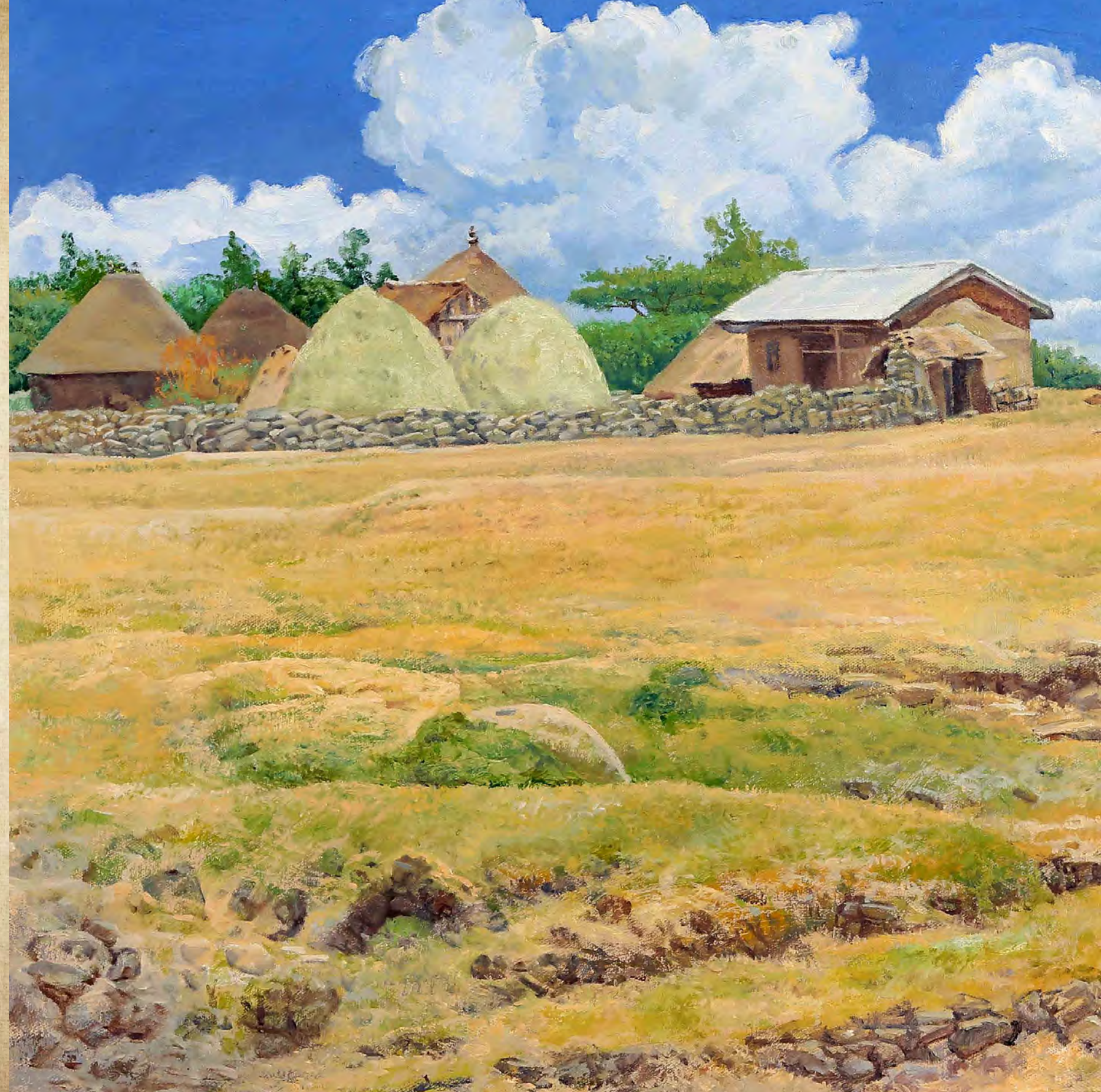
MEZGEBU TESEMA

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. He supports the use of pictorial space in painting. He is always trying to achieve the intensified pictorial space in his art works. He believes the 3D quality of a painting is supported by pictorial illusion of space, it becomes more communicative and interactive with any spectator, looks stronger and possesses an engaging power.

NOW: Works at the School of Fine Art and also as a part-time artist.



MULUKEN DEBEBE

EDUCATION: Muluken Debebe was born on 29th January, 1978 at Metherrara, 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 of 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 Éthio-Française in Addis Ababa and the Asni Art Gallery with the Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations in Addis Ababa.

INSPIRATION: Nigatu is inspired by the beauty of Habesha women especially in the context of a market under an umbrella and portrait. His 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.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



OUSMAN HASSEN MOHAMMED

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. He received practical training at DFAA for one year in the field of photography.

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.

NOW: He has been teaching at the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in the field of Industrial Design and Graphics Design.



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 started Redi's Collection. 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
- Group art Exhibition at the Sheraton Addis 'Art of Ethiopia' in 2013
- Group art Exhibition at the Uzbekistan Museum in 2013
- Group art Exhibition in the Galani Gallery in 2014

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.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.





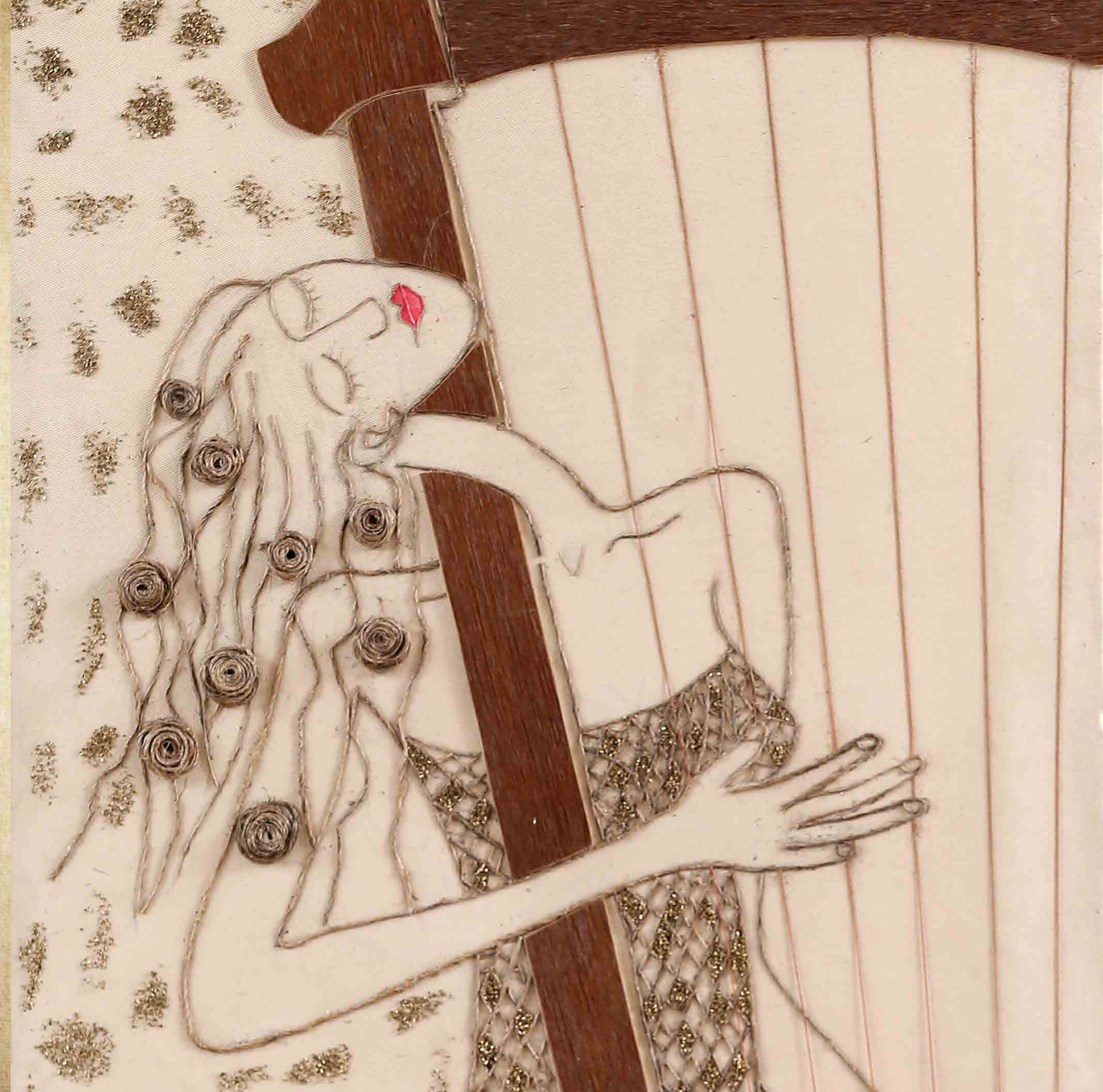
RUTH TEFERI

EDUCATION: Ruth Teferi was born in Addis Ababa in the year 1987. She completed her elementary education from St. Mary and Bethlehem School and her High School from Ethiopia Tikdem Secondary School. She then further went on to pursue her graduation at the Diploma Alkan Health Science College.

CAREER: She pursued her post graduation in fundamental drawing and painting from the Russian Center for Science and Culture. As a young creative talent her work has featured at the Russian Center for Science and Culture in 2007 and also at the United Nation Art Festival in 2014.

INSPIRATION: She cites culture, traditional clothing, music and history as her major influences. She also seeks inspiration from Ethiopian traditional musical instruments and Ethiopian Jazz music respectively.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



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 graduated from the Department of Painting. In 2012 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: His recent exhibitions include:

- Solo art exhibition in Wolkite in 2010, 2011 and 2012
- Group art exhibition in Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in 2012
- Group art exhibition in Alliance Éthio-Française
- Art of Ethiopia at Sheraton Addis in 2012 & 2013
- Group art exhibition at Golagul Tower
- Group art exhibition at the Embassy of United States of America
- Group art exhibition at Laphto Art Gallery in 2014
- Group art exhibition at ECA in 2013
- Group art exhibition at Serenade Art and Food in 2014
- Group art exhibition at Taytu in 2014
- Group art exhibition at Monarch Hotel in 2014
- Group art exhibition at Radisson Blu Hotel in 2014
- Group art exhibition at Kaleb Hotel in 2014

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. Recently he has been drawn to the musical aspects of nature and natural order that manifests itself in infinite layers. His work combines splashed musical notes, intensive color appearance, reasonable tonal arrangement, flat monotone images, which gives his paintings a universal language.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



SEYOUM AYALEW

EDUCATION: Seyoum Ayalew is a contemporary Ethiopian artist whose art focuses on capturing real moments happening around him. He was born in 1968 in Addis Ababa. In 1981 he joined the Addis Ababa University where he graduated in Mural Art. After Seyoum's graduation he stayed in Dessie where he worked to promote art. As a result of his commitment to training young people he produced many young artists.

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. Inside his art Seyoum illuminates the relationship between light and shadow by contrasting the warmth and power of light through hot and cool colors with cool and hot colors. He works towards resolving conflict and tension between these themes through his use of color and emotion.

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



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.

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, the Addis Ababa Ethnographic Museum group exhibition in 2000 and the Art of Ethiopia in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

INSPIRATION: He tries to imagine the emotions of his audiences. He loves to explore the use of color in creating interesting and contrasting compositions. Through his works he tries to add something extraordinary to things that are commonplace.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



TEWODROS GIRMA

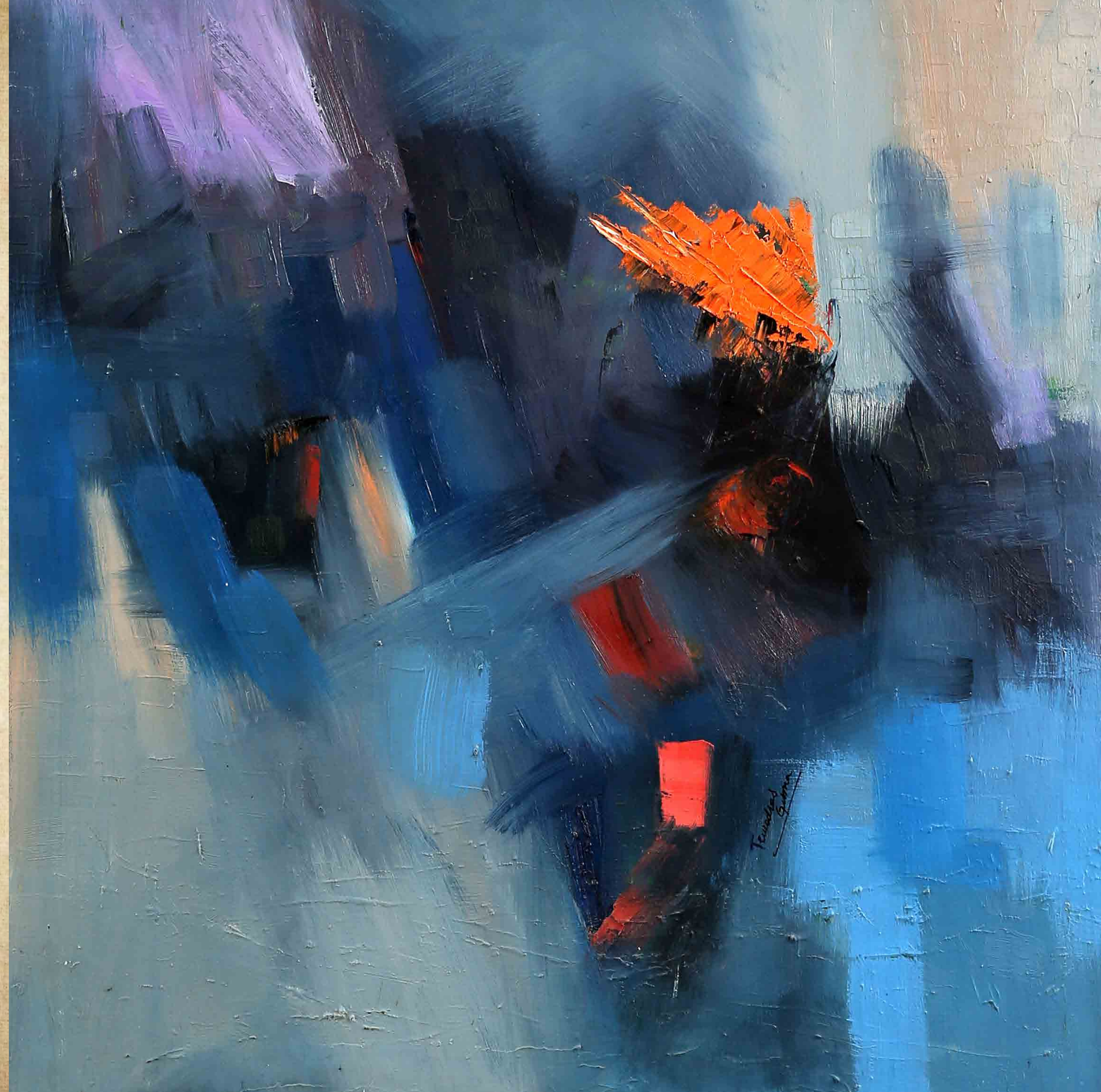
EDUCATION: Tewodros Girma was born in 1979 in Negele Borana, Ethiopia. He has been practicing art since he was 13, in Assella City, under the instruction of artist Buzuayehu Girma, who was a graduate from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design. In 2007, he graduated from Addis Ababa 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: As an artist he tries to create art that speaks both to him and to others about righteous revolution that exists in modern societies. He is inspired in righteous revolution as it gives him the energy and passion to recreate art that expresses joy, hope, love, and all good things in life.

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.



TIZITA BERHANU

EDUCATION: Tizita Berhanu was born on May 28, 1991 in Addis Ababa. She developed a passion for painting and drawing at an early age. After joining high school she started taking summer classes in Abbysinia School of Arts. She then joined the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design where she graduated with a degree in Bachelors of Fine Arts.

CAREER: Her work has been featured in prestigious halls of the National Museum at the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design, National gallery, Galleria Tomoka, Millennium Hall, Cutlog Art Fair (Paris), Laphto Art Gallery, Italian Culture Institute and Conso Cultural Institute.

INSPIRATION: Love is her topic and inspiration when she takes a blank canvas. She also is inspired by suffering women, thus trying to capture their pathos in her paintings. Her paintings are abstract and realistic at the same time. She loves dark colors and believes that the portrayal of love and sadness is best accomplished through dark hues.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



WENDIMAGEGN GASHAW DEMEKE

EDUCATION: Wendimagegn Gashaw Demeke was born in the year 1985 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. He studied art for two years from 2006-07 at Abyssinia Fine Arts INS. He further went on to pursue his degree at the prestigious Entoto College for an additional 3 years and specialized in Painting in 2010.

CAREER: He has participated in many exhibitions which have been showcased in the US & the UK embassy art fairs. He teaches art to students at Abyssinia Fine Arts and Armin School. His work has been featured in many solo and group exhibitions such as National Theatre, National Museum and Alliance Éthio-Française to name a few.

INSPIRATION: Art he believes is like second nature to him as it comes to him without any effort. He seeks inspiration from his environment, specially his childhood memories. He feels that his art is not restricted to medium or techniques, time or philosophy. He is also inspired by interior designs, magazines and movie posters. He says he absorbs the surroundings and then expresses his perspective via paints.

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



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, the US Embassy, Addis Ababa in 2009, Sheraton Addis in 2012 and 2013, Goethe Institute of Modern Art Museum in 2013 and Galani Coffee House, Addis Ababa in 2014.

INSPIRATION: Yared's passion for art started at an early age. The works of old masters like Picasso and William Adolph inspired him to embark on the path of art. He mostly works with acrylic and glue, but recently he has been experimenting with coffee as a painting medium.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



YISHAK HAGOS



EDUCATION: Yishak Hagos was born on June 22, 1988 in Addis Ababa. He graduated from the sculpture department at Alle school of Fine Arts and Design.

CAREER: He is currently working on some of his own creative experiments mainly focusing on dramatic body movements, communicating through form and line and depiction of the human emotion through body movement.

INSPIRATION: His work is inspired by nature wherein he attempts to capture that lightness and gracefulness of stone and wood mixed with other materials by capturing the character of his inspiration.

NOW: Currently works as a full time studio artist at the Ethiopiawi Art Studio.



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.

INSPIRATION: His inspiration derives from his observation of life. He has found success in both realism painting and illustration with his dynamic and expressive organic abstraction realistic work that connects the living subject matter of his still life and figurative paintings and expresses them in a bold and innovative manner.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



YODIT ASSEFA

EDUCATION: Yodit Assefa was born in 1985 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), the Ethiopian National Museum, the National Theatre and the Sheraton Addis Hotel.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Yodit has received recognition from prominent art institutes from around the world. She received a certificate at the 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. Recently one of her paintings published at the Ethiopian National Museum Catalogue was awarded a certificate of recognition.

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).





YOHANNES BAYOU FIKRE

EDUCATION: Yohannes was born in Addis Ababa in 1990. He attended his high and preparatory school in Dejazmach Wondirad. He completed his graduation and got his degree from the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design, Addis Ababa University.

CAREER: He has participated three times in a group art exhibition that was presented in The National Theater Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of Alle School of Fine Arts in 2012. In addition he has also won in an artwork competition that was presented by UNFPA in 2012. His work has also been featured in major Ethiopian art galleries.

INSPIRATION: He seeks inspiration from his surroundings and draws energy from his cultural and traditional threads. He believes that he captures the struggles, the victories and the fabric of his nation through his paintings. He firmly believes that he can bring about a positive change in the society through his work.

NOW: Currently works as a full time studio artist.



YONAS HAILU ZEWDE

EDUCATION: Yonas was born on the 18th of December 1980 in Addis Ababa. He is the youngest in his family and was highly influenced by his elder brothers who are also artists like Yonas. He graduated from the prestigious Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design and Mastered in the Department of Visual Communication.

CAREER: His work has earned him praise and applause on many platforms. He won the 3rd International Youth Art competition that was conducted in Romania. He has also participated in poster competitions and won for his work titled Stigma & Discrimination against HIV and many such national and international competitions. His work has been displayed in many art exhibitions across Ethiopia.

INSPIRATION: Yonas finds inspiration from the troubles of human existence. His art imitates his life, thus his paintings are around his feelings towards community service, climate change, HIV awareness etc.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



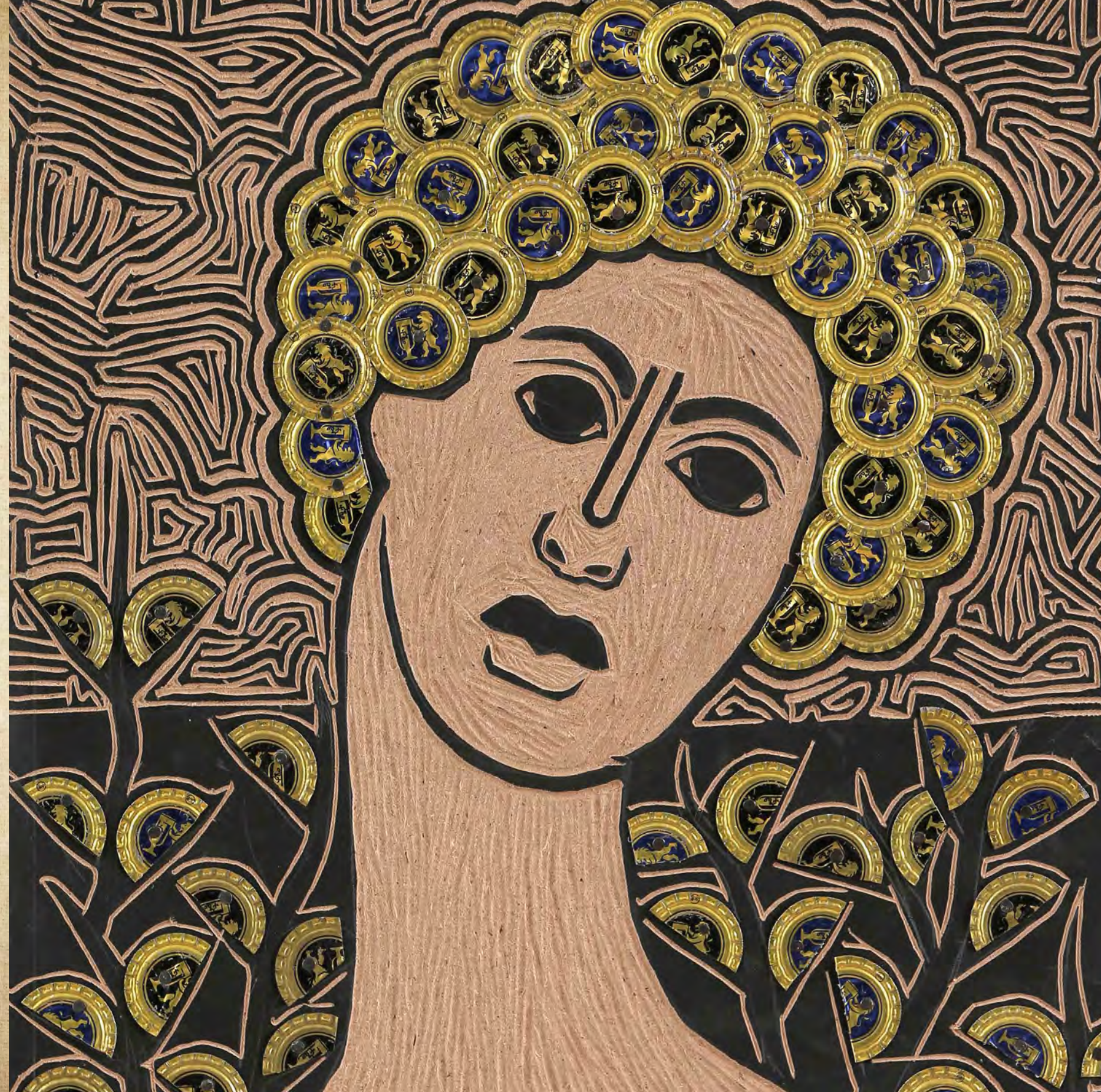
YONAS MELESA

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, the Addis Ababa Museum, the UNICEF Addis Ababa Museum, the Kampala Art Biennial and the Sheraton Addis.

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.





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, Art of Ethiopia, Sheraton Addis, the Gojo Art Gallery, the Beharawi Theater, the Listro School of Fine Arts Gallery in Addis Ababa University and the Taitu Hotel.

INSPIRATION: Yonatan's recent works have tried to touch different ideas. He believes there are a lot of ideas that need to be explored. For his work, he had used collage techniques with magazine and newspaper clippings, ribbons, paint, bits of colored and handmade papers, portions of other artwork or texts, photographs and various other objects, glued to a piece of paper or canvas. This eventually gave magnificent images which express themselves in a unique way.

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



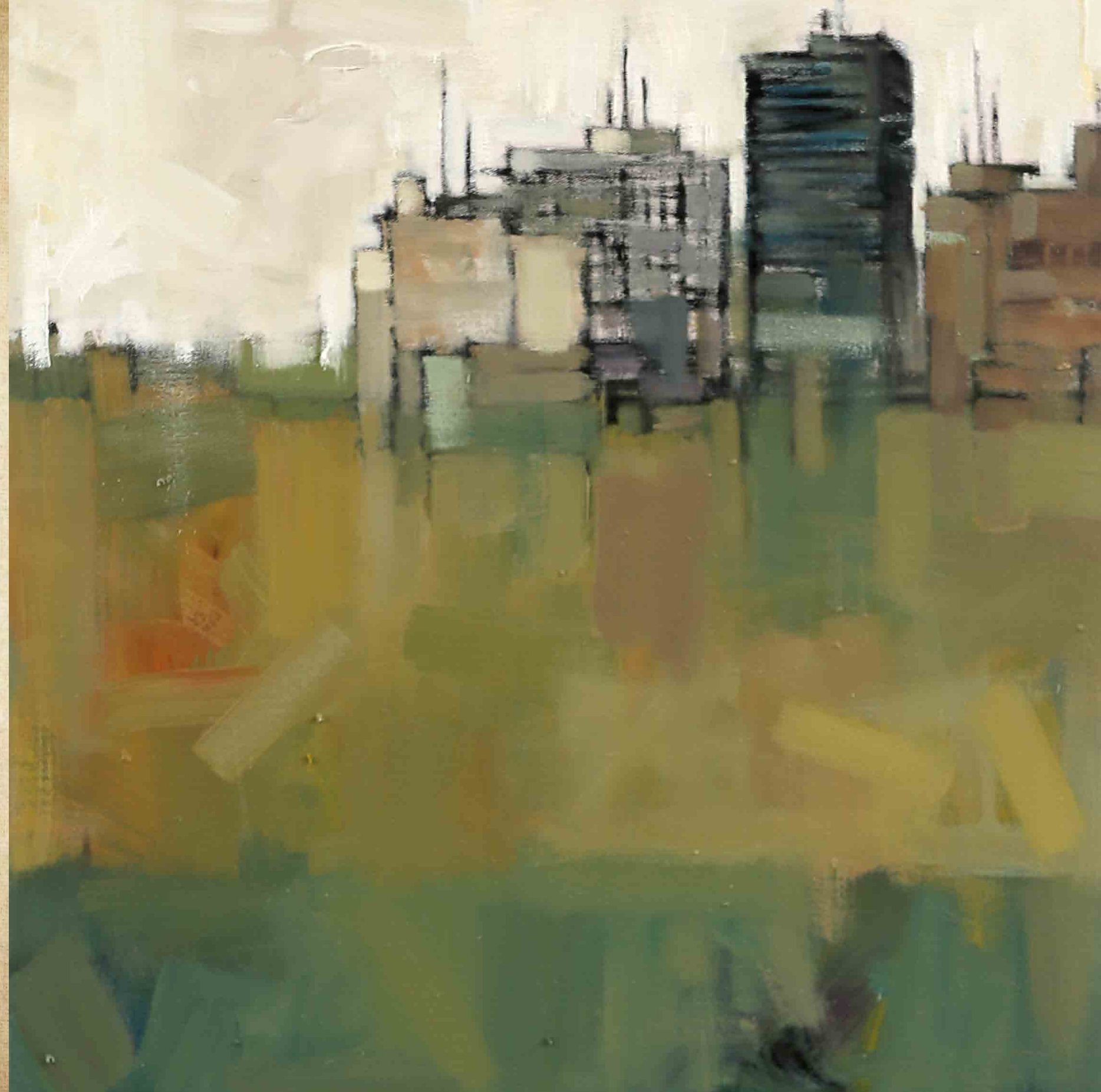
YOSEF LULE

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.

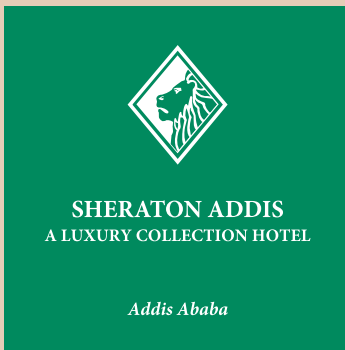
CAREER: Since graduating from Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2001 he has worked on several projects for UNICEF and UNFPA, and has been a part of several multicultural artists' residencies. Nationally, his work has been displayed in group exhibitions at the Habesha Art Studio, Art of Ethiopia Shows of Years by the Sheraton Addis 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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