

FEATURED ARTISTS

Abadi Tsegay Abebe Arega Abera Abreha Abraham Abebe Abyalew Assefa Abiy Eshetu Adiskidan Ambye Alemayehu Biratu Alexander Tadesse Amare Addisu Amdom G/Yohannes Atkilt Assefa Ayele Assefa Bedlu Molla Bereket Tekle Michael Beruk Mamo **Bezawit Wondwosen**

Biniam Hailu Dawit Yiheyes **Dimetros** Kidane Engdaye Lemma **Fitsum Wubeshet** Getahun Assefa Heruy Aregawi Habtamu Tibebe Hailu Kifle Haron Suliman Henok Ayele Henock Azene Joseph Habtemariam **Kidane Getaw** Lulseged Retta Mezgebu Tessema Nigatu Solomon

Ruth Teferi Seyoum Ayalew Tamerat Siltan Tesfa Solomon **Tewodros Bekele Tewodros Girma** Tizta Berhanu Tsega Tesema Wondimagegne Gashaw Worku Goshu Yitagesu Mergia Yohannes Bayou Fikre Yonas Melesa Yonas Tilahun Zekarias Ketema Zekiros Tekle Haimanot

ANTONY WADE GENERAL MANAGER



The Art of Ethiopia 2015 is the 8th exposition in the series of the show. This art show series was the inspiration of the late Mr. Jean-Pierre Manigoff, General Manager of the Sheraton Addis, a Luxury Collection Hotel and has grown to be the most popular art show in the country.

In continuing with the evolution of the Art of Ethiopia show, this year 50 artists are featured with 500 original works of contemporary art, reflecting the development of Ethiopia whilst promoting both culture and traditions as well as bringing to life, through vibrant interpretations, Ethiopia's natural beauty.

The Art of Ethiopia show has opened the doors to the world to experience the life and dreams of the country through the eyes of divergent creative Ethiopian artists, who in turn have become appreciated over the years internationally. A number of the artists participating in the show have been invited to exhibit internationally and their art continues to be admired by a variety of cultures.

Each year it is becoming more difficult to choose which works of art should be exhibited as the population of talented artists is ever growing and the quality is continuously improving.

The 2015 8th art show is particularly emotional and unique as it is dedicated to the late Jean-Pierre V. Manigoff, who contributed so much to the international recognition of Ethiopian artists over the past years and in the hope that his legacy may live through the proliferation of Ethiopian Art.

Enjoy this 8th edition of the Art of Ethiopia show and the inspiration of each artist.



Dear art lover,

I would like to welcome each and every one to this magnificent annual event taking place for the 8th consecutive year at the Sheraton Addis hotel.

I am very honoured to be invited to curate this year's Art of Ethiopia event again and although I am unable to attend, I would still like to express my special thanks to the management of the Sheraton Addis, all donors, stakeholders and artists.

Whilst other art forms such as theatre and music are often hinged by collaboration, for visual artists collaboration is not always business as usual, but rather, a new opportunity to explore one's own working method and ideas from others' perspectives. We all have our own different perspectives and experiences but we share a fundamental belief in the power of art and the artists who created it. Art has great power.

This year, as in previous ones, we have carefully selected artwork which demonstrates the effort, skills but also the progress of our very talented Ethiopian artists. The progress that has been achieved by all, over the 8 years, is truly amazing. Unfortunately, we couldn't select all artists and their work, not because they weren't talented enough, but due to logistic issues. Because of the experimental nature of art, we know that the wonderful works you are about to see in this exhibition, all tell a story with an element of personal expression. It might not be a conscious or a true story but there will be something in every one of these works that I am sure will touch you.

On behalf of the management of the Sheraton Addis hotel and myself, I would like to once again thank all the artists for the hard work they've put into this event and I would personally like to invite you to the show.

Yours sincerely,

Marina Emphietzi Harris, Artist-cum-Curator www. marinaharris.com

Lulseged Retta The Bridge



Art of Ethiopia is taking place for the 8th consecutive year. This year's exhibition is in memory of the late Jean-Pierre V. Manigoff who was the initiator of this successful art exhibition. His continued support and dedication for the past seven years ensured the tremendous success the Art of Ethiopia enjoys today. We salute him for his unreserved contribution.

Several new and veteran artists have displayed their works in the last seven exhibitions. Many of the artworks have found themselves in different parts of the world. The Art of Ethiopia has gone beyond the benefit of all the artists involved. All the artists taking part in this art show have made an effort to express their philosophy and style in their art which encourages many art lovers, scholars and the international community to take note that Ethiopia has great artists who are capable of lifting up the country's image through the art world.

Finally, Mr. Antony Wade, the General Manager of Sheraton Addis and the entire staff, deserve recognition for their effort and unreserved assistance in pushing Art of Ethiopia to reach the level it has reached today.

In the hope that the Art of Ethiopia will continue to receive the recognition it deserves, we trust that you will enjoy the 8th exhibition.



ABADI TSEGAY

EDUCATION: Abadi Tsegay was born in 1983. He went to school in Mekelle and progressed to Fine Arts at the Tigray School of Fine Arts where he obtained an Advanced Diploma.

CAREER: As a young artist, Abadi developed a variety of interests, such as graphic design, sculpture, architecture, planner and instructor where he has gained more than ten years of experience.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS: He has achieved more than twenty-five awards for different artistic and architectural design competitions including a gold medal.

INSPIRATION: Visual motives of different Ethiopian traditional art and ancient architectural works, endemic of Ethiopian social and cultural values.

NOW: He is a lecturer, studio artist and architect.



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ABEBE AREGA

EDUCATION: Abebe Arega was born in 1990 in Muger town and completed his primary and secondary education in Muger Cement Enterprise School. He graduated from Alle School of Fine Arts and Design, AAU in 2014 with BFA in graphics and print making.

INSPIRATION: His paintings are inspired by fauna of nature.

NOW: He is currently working as a full-time studio artist incorporating realistic, semi-realistic and abstract styles.





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 and he also participated in the Art of Ethiopia 2014.

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.





ABRAHAM ABEBE

EDUCATION: Abraham Abebe was born on November 25, 1982 in Addis Ababa. He graduated from Abyssinia Fine Arts School in 2004.

CAREER: Abraham has exhibited in many locations over a span of nine years including:

- Habesha Art Gallery in 2005
- Hilton Hotel in 2005 & 2006
- Our art gallery (with friend) in 2007

- Makush Art Gallery in 2009
 New York with agent in 2010
 Alliance Ethio-Francase Addis Ababa in 2012
- Raddison Blu Hotel in 2012
- Sheraton Addis Hotel for 5th Annual World Autism Awareness Day
- Spain with agent in 2013
- Harmony Hotel in 2014
 He has also participated at Sheraton Hotel for the fifth Annual World Autism Awareness Day

INSPIRATION: Abraham is inspired by city landscape and the magic of the unique "Meskel" flower.

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





ABYALEW ASSEFA

EDUCATION: Abyalew Assefa graduated with distinction in Graphic Design 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: He works as a full-time artist.





ABIY ESHETU

EDUCATION: Abiy graduated from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in the department of design with a BA Degree in 2000.

CAREER: He has participated in group and solo exhibitions such as: • The Alliance Ethio-Francase Addis Ababa • The Ethiopian National Theatre • The Ethiopian National Museum

- The Makush Art Gallery

INSPIRATION: Abiy is fascinated by the city's unity in diversity. He draws inspiration from the surrounding and daily lives of ordinary people, the loves and sorrows, challenges and celebrations.

NOW: He is a full-time studio artist, and actively participates in solo and group exhibitions.





ADISKIDAN AMBYE

EDUCATION: Adiskidan Ambaye was born in Addis Ababa in 1977 and grew up in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. She attended elementary and secondary school at the Notre Dame Catholic School. In 1992, she left for Germany for further education. After this she continued her education for four and half years in Frankfurt, Germany, where she had the opportunity to exhibit her art in 1996. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts in 2002.

CAREER: She has participated in various exhibitions in different places. Her exhibitions include:

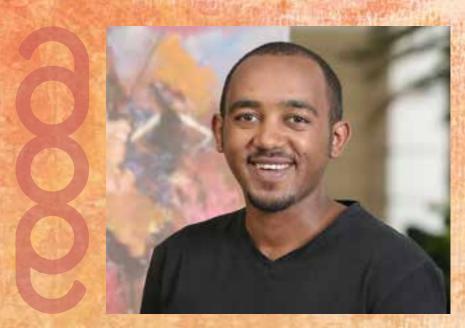
- The Chicago Museum of Industrial Design for the Black History month to acknowledge the contribution of African Americans to the advancement of design in 2007
- Target Corporation's private collection in 2002
- African Women, sponsored by World Space at the World Space center in George Town, Washington DC in 2001

During her college days, she had the privilege to intern with Emily Mclallen Inc. as a product designer for their line of lamps. After graduation she worked with Jomo Design, Arlington Virginia, as their chief furniture and interior designer.

INSPIRATION: Adiskidan is inspired by Ethiopian women including her mother, who express a graceful endurance of hardship.

NOW: Currently she is a full-time product designer and developer in ceramics.





ALEMAYEHU BIRATU

EDUCATION: Alemayehu Biratu was born in Addis Ababa in 1985. He graduated from Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in Sculpture in 2008.

CAREER: Whilst Alemayehu was working as a studio artist, he took up employment as an art instructor in Hawassa College of Teachers Education from 2009 to 2012. He has also participated in group and solo exhibitions in various locations.

INSPIRATION: Alemayehu's work is inspired by the infectious force of nature.

NOW: He is working as a Graphic Designer in the Ethiopia postal service whilst perusing studio art.





ALEXANDER TADESSE

EDUCATION: Born in 1983, Alexander Tadesse grew up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Following his passion for art, after high school, he joined the Addis Ababa University (Alle) School of Fine Arts and Design where he graduated in 2006. Then he specialized in painting at Entoto Poly Technique College of Fine Art and received a diploma in 2009.

CAREER: He has participated in solo and group exhibitions such as: • Kampala Art Biennale Uganda 2014 • Afri Art Gallery Uganda 2014 • Capital Hotel 2014

- Radisson Blu hotel 2014
- National Theatre of Ethiopia 2010 and also participated in street painting organized by 'Wise Up' Ethiopia 2008

INSPIRATION: Alexander is enthused by the spectrum of colors in markets, public transport and people's expressions.

NOW: Since 2011 he is working full-time at his own studio.





AMARE ADDISU

EDUCATION: Amare Addisu was born on October 30, 1991 in Raya, North Wello. He studied his elementary and secondary school in Raya until 2010. In 2011 he joined the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design progressing to the Sculpture Department where he graduated in 2012.

INSPIRATION: Amare is motivated by the beauty of nature and his passion for construction.

NOW: He pursues his sculpting in a studio.





AMDOM G/YOHANNES

EDUCATION: Amdom G/Yohannes was born in 1989 in Mekelle. After finishing his high school, he studied at the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in Graphic art and graduated in 2011.

CAREER: His works have been featured in group and solo exhibitions in Addis Ababa, Mekelle, Awasa, Arba Minch and also here in Addis Ababa.

- Alliance Ethio-Francaise in 2008, "Listro" School of Fine Arts Gallery
- USA Embassy Addis Ababa (2009)
 Graduation Project exhibition in Alle School of Fine Art and Design (2011)

INSPIRATION: His work is inspired by the beauty of Ethiopian women, Ethiopian lithography and Ethiopian daily life.

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





ATKILT ASSEFA

EDUCATION: Atkilt Assefa joined the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design on an extension program. This program which lasted for two years helped him to attain the basic skills of painting. In order to enhance his skills, he had joined the Entoto WET College for four years after which he attained a diploma.

CAREER: His recent exhibitions include:

- German Culture 2004
- Italy Embassy 2010
- Hilton Hotel 2006, 2007 & 2008
- Habesaha Traditional Center 2007
- Greek Club 2005
- U.S.A Embassy 2010

INSPIRATION: The colourful faction seen in market places involving the merchants, ware and vehicles drive his diverse inspiration. He captures the motion by using bright red colours.

NOW: He is working as a full-time studio artist in his studio.





AYELE ASSEFA

EDUCATION: Ayele Assefa was born in Addis Ababa in 1962. He studied at Medihanialem Secondary School. He then joined the Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts and Design and graduated in 1980. In the pursuit to diversify and to refine his artistic talent, he joined the Kiev State Institute of Arts USSR in 1982 and graduated in 1989.

CAREER:

He has displayed his works at:

- Kiev State Institute of Arts U.S.S.R
- Addis Ababa Hilton
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise Group
- St.George Interior Decoration and Art Gallery
 Russian Center For Science and Art Gallery Group
- Ethiopian National Museum Group

INSPIRATION: Landscape and cityscape inspires Ayele to create vibrant artworks.

NOW: Currently he is a lecturer at Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, as head of the Painting Department and also a member of the Academic Committee.





BEDLU MOLLA

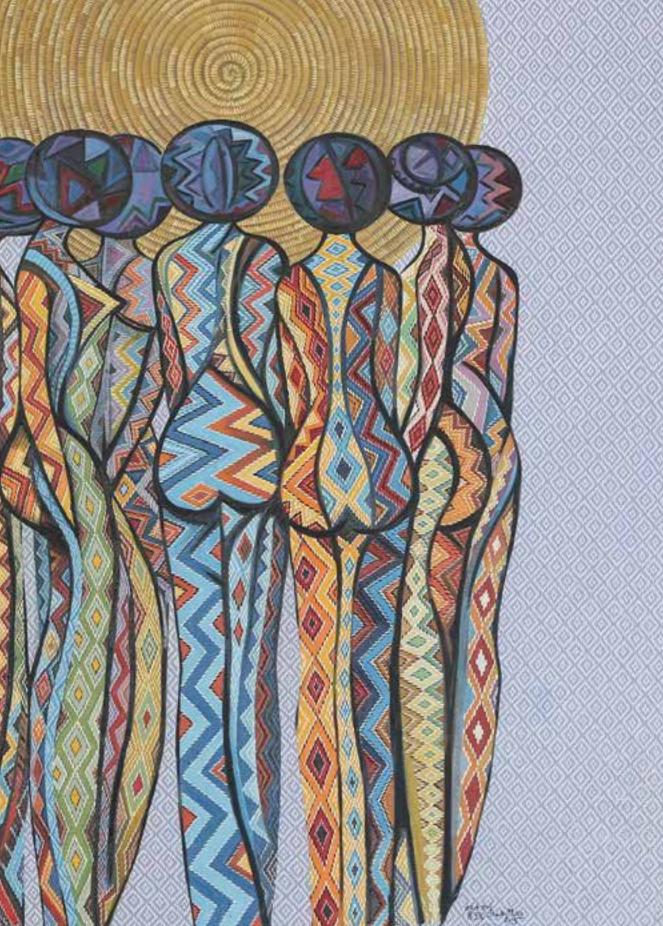
EDUCATION: Bedlu Molla was born in 1973 in Addis Ababa. He was educated at elementary and secondary school in Entoto Amba and Entoto Technical and Vocation School respectively. Then he joined Addis Ababa University Alle Fine Arts and Design School in 1994 and graduated in 1997.

CAREER: Bedlu has displayed his work at numerous solo and group exhibitions as below:

- Russian Science and Cultural Center Group Exhibition in 1996
- ECA Hall Center Group Exhibition in 1996
- Axum Hotel Group Exhibition in 1997
- Imperial Hotel Solo Exhibition in 1997
- Ethiopian National Theater Solo Exhibition in 2007
- Arba Minch Solo Exhibition in 2007
- Hawasa Solo Exhibition in 2007
- National Museum Solo Exhibition in 2007
- Queen's College Solo Exhibition in 2010
- Gima Dagitu Hotel Group Exhibition in 2010
- Churchel Hotel Solo Exhibition in 2011
- Churchel Hotel Solo Exhibition in 2014

INSPIRATION: The traditions of Ethiopia inspire his work.

NOW: He is a painter and graphic designer at the National Lottery Administration.





BEREKET TEKLE MICHAEL

EDUCATION: Bereket Tekle Michael was born in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in 1969. He graduated from the Addis Ababa University with an Advanced Diploma in the field of Graphic Design.

CAREER: He has worked in different international organizations as a graphic designer and cartoonist. He has participated in a variety of solo and group art exhibitions as well as a competition prepared by the United Nations. He has also attended multiple workshops.

INSPIRATION: Bereket's art is inspired by priests and portraits where he uses mixed media painting and digital print.

NOW: He is a full-time studio artist and creates advertising.





BERUK MAMO

EDUCATION: Beruk Mamo was born in Debre Zeit in 1979. He graduated from Addis Ababa University Fine Arts School where he achieved a diploma in 2002.

CAREER: He has exhibited his art in a multiple of locations starting from 2002 at the following places: • Kirar Art Studio – 2003

- Greek Club 2003
- Hilton Hotel 2004
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise 2004
- Ireland Embassy 2004
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise and Djibouti 2005
- Alem Gallery 2005
- Macush Gallery 2005
- School of Fine Arts 2007
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise 2008
- Economic Commission of Africa 2009
- Sidama Lodge 2010 and 2011
 National Museum 2012

INSPIRATION: Beruk's work of art is stimulated by the beauty of Ethiopian traditions.

NOW: He is a full-time studio artist and develops advertising.





BEZAWIT WONDWOSEN

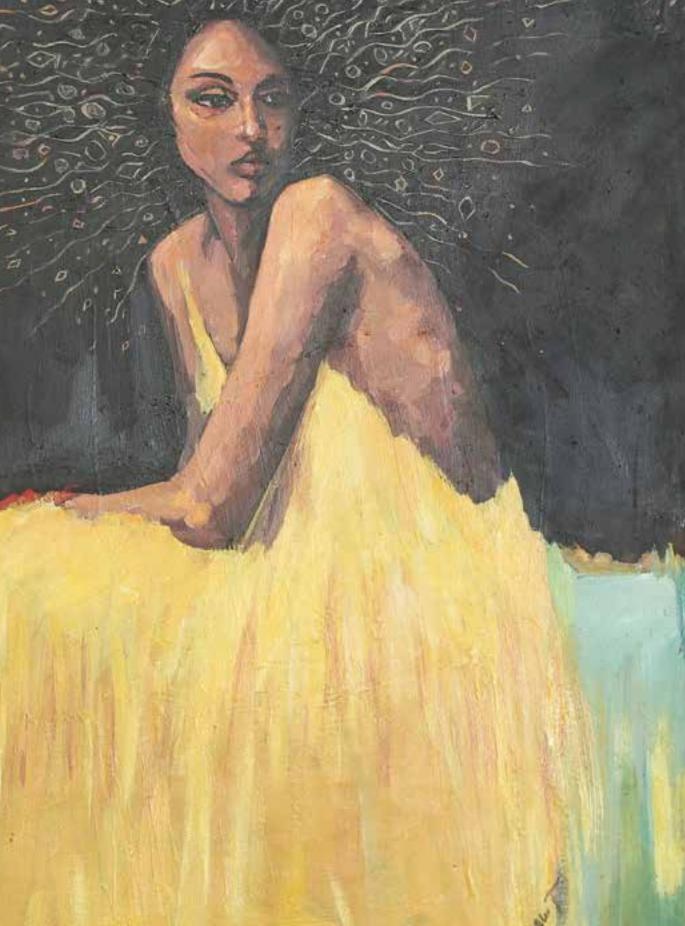
EDUCATION: Bezawit Wondwosen was born in February 1985 in Addis Ababa. She excels in oil painting through her self-taught skills. She has received an advanced certificate in drawing & water color from Abyssinia Fine Arts and Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa. Bezawit has a certificate in Pattern and Garment Design from the Federal Small and Medium Enterprise Agency Handicraft Training Center and also has a certificate in Graphic Design from IMAGE Graphics Design Institute.

CAREER: As an upcoming artist Bezawit has showcased her work at various exhibitions:

- Art of Ethiopia participated at Sheraton Addis in 2012 and 2013
- Art Exhibition at Galleria To.Mo.Ca in 2013
- She has also participated in a workshop on climate change (2010) organized by ICAN Journey and she is a Bronze Medalist in the Art Contest prepared by UNICEF's Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) and her works are displayed on billboards in major cities around the country.

INSPIRATION: Her works are based on abstract expression, close to instinct and deep feelings. They are also semi-realistic. Some of her paintings depict the positive and negative sides of women in society.

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





BINIAM HAILU

EDUCATION: Biniam Hailu was born in Dessie in 1990. He graduated from Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in the graphics department.

CAREER: Biniam's works have been presented to the public at different stages in various areas. He has presented his work at the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design graduate students exhibition in 2014 Addis Ababa and has participated in a number of competitions.

INSPIRATION: Biniam is inspired by the beauty of motion in all things.

NOW: Currently Biniam works as a studio artist.





DAWIT YIHEYES

EDUCATION: Dawit Yiheyes was born in Addis Ababa in 1978. He attended the Russian Center for Science and Culture, Alle Fine Arts & Design College (AAU) and graduated in 2000.

CAREER: Dawit has participated in a number of group and solo exhibitions in a variety of locations such as:

- Enlightenment Art Academy in August 2008
 National Theatre Gallery in August 2008
- National Theatre Gallery in January 2011
 Italy Cultural Institute in July 2012
 African Union Hall in August 2012

- Ethiopian National Museum Gallery in December 2012
 Radisson Blu Hotel in 2014

INSPIRATION: Dawit captures the day-to-day life of the lower income society. He aspires to tell a story with each painting.

NOW: Currently Biniam works as a full-time studio artist and a part-time art teacher.





DIMETROS KIDANE

EDUCATION: Dimetros Kidane was born in Merhabete in 1980 and was raised in Addis Ababa. He graduated from Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2004.

CAREER: He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions locally and internationally. His international shows were exhibited in New York, Madrid and Amsterdam.

INSPIRATION: Dimetros is motivated by experimenting with form and color in his cityscape paintings.

NOW: He is the founder of the Five Art Studios and Gallery and is presently engaged there.





ENGDAYE LEMMA

EDUCATION: Engdaye Lemma was born in Desse. He was educated in four different schools and attended an institution called Pallet. Throughout his school life, he has been passionate about art and spends many hours practicing. After completing his high school, he joined the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design University.

INSPIRATION: His works mainly focus on marbling and silk screen painting. Using these techniques, he expresses his emotions through old buildings, broken wood, open doors where he brings the beauty of age to life.

NOW: He is presently continuing his art education at Alle School of Fine Arts and Design University.





FITSUM WUBESHET

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

CAREER: He started his career in 2001 serving as a cartoonist to 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 2014 "Art of Ethiopia" exhibition.

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.





GETAHUN ASSEFA

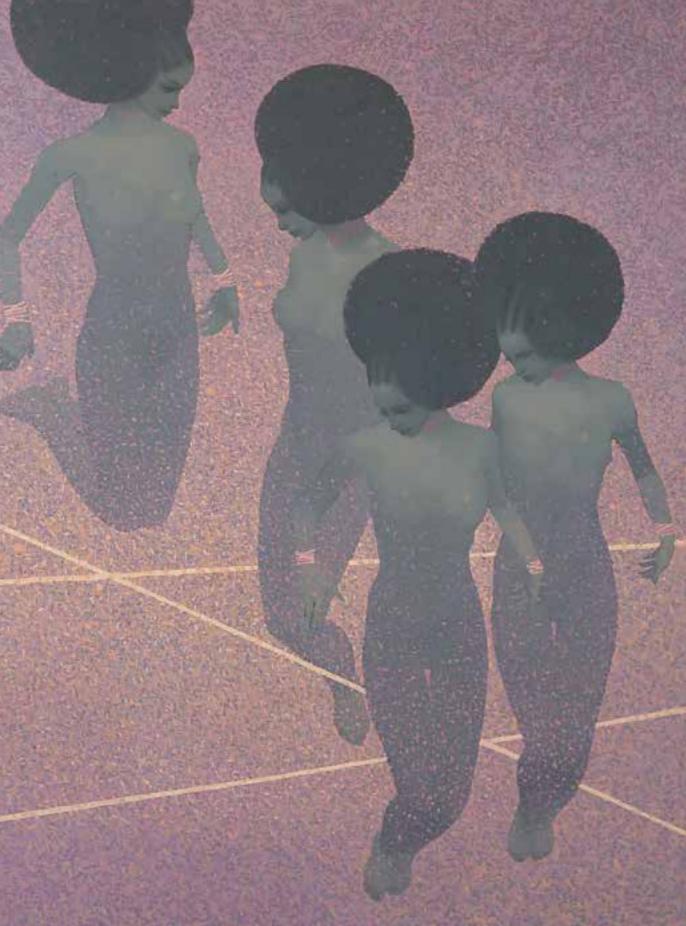
EDUCATION: Getahun Assefa studied Painting and Graphics, majoring in Sculpture at the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design, and graduated with distinction in 1987. He then moved to Russia's Moscow State Academic Institute of Fine Arts in 1989, where he specialized in Monumental Painting (Mural Art) and completed a Master of Fine Arts Degree with Honors 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.





HERUY AREGAWI

EDUCATION: Heruy Aregawi studied fine arts and design at Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design in 2007. After one year of taking common courses, he was enrolled in the department of painting, where he received practical and theoretical training from many senior masters. He finally graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

CAREER: His career encompasses studio art and an engagement in monumental mosaic art. He also teaches in higher education while maintaining his artistic talents.

INSPIRATION: His paintings are inspired by the need to shed light on the blind spots of his understanding of reality stimulated by beauty.

NOW: Currently his time is allotted to studio practices as well as to working in Mekelle University, School of Architecture where he serves as an art history teacher.





HABTAMU TIBEBE

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

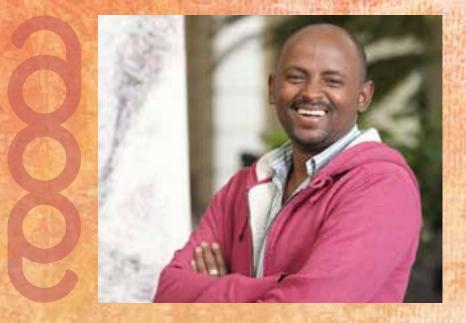
CAREER: In 2012 he participated in an artwork competition presented by UNFPA at the Sheraton Addis. As a young and upcoming artist, his work has featured in major Ethiopian art galleries such as:

- The National Theater Art Gallery
 The Art Gallery of Alle School of Fine Arts
- The National Museum Art Gallery, Art of Ethiopia 2014

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.



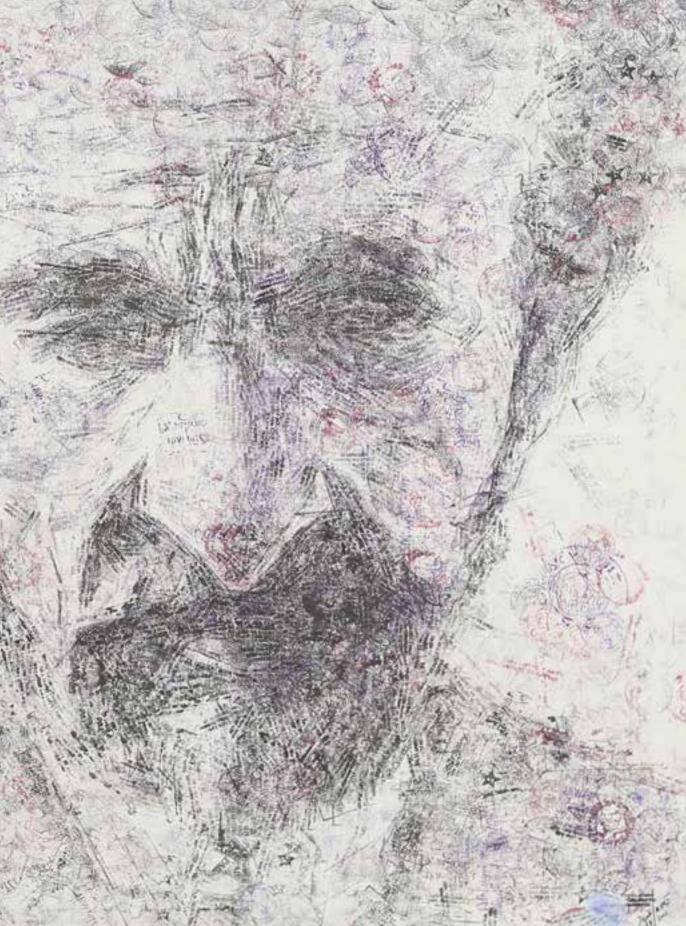


HAILU KIFLE

EDUCATION: Hailu Kifle was born in Dessie in 1984. He attended the Tigilfrie Elementary School and Kidame Gebya Junior Secondary School in Dessie. He persued his education further at the Addis Ababa University in Graphics (Visual Communication) Department and achieved a BFA Degree in 2006.

INSPIRATION: Hailu Kifle draws inspiration from history, current social and political issues of today's society using stamps. Creatively he imprints his emotions and views with the use of stamps from the past by modifying the shape and employing his finger prints.

NOW: He has been teaching since 2006 at the Entoto Tvet College of Fine Arts.



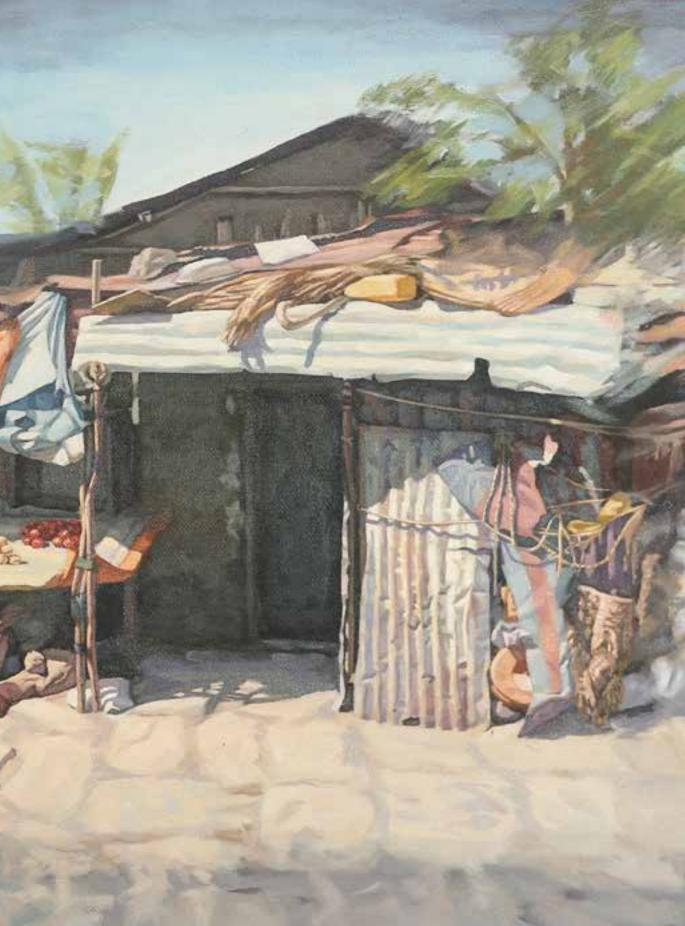


HARON SULIMAN

EDUCATION: Haron Suliman was born in 1989 in Ethiopia. In 2007 he received a certificate in drawing from the Abyssina Art School. In 2008, he was awarded a certificate in Fine Arts from Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts and Design followed by Diploma in Fine Arts from Entoto Technical and Vocational Polly Technical College in 2012.

CAREER: His art have been featured in solo and group exhibitions such as:

- Entoto Technical Vocational and Training Polly Technical College Art Gallery in 2012
- Italian Culture Institute in 2012
- Exhibition Center collaboration with British Council (W.A.P.I.) in 2011
- Won the Four Freedom Art Competition organized by Embassy of United States of America Addis Ababa in 2011
- National Theatre Art Gallery in 2009 and 2010
- Group exhibition at Laphto Mall in 2008





HENOK AYELE

EDUCATION: Henok was born in 1980 in the Oromia State Assella. He studied drawing, painting and sculpture at the Fine Arts Study Center in Assela, from 1996 to 2001 and he obtained a diploma in Photography at F.A.V.T.C in 2002 in Addis Ababa.

CAREER: Henok has exhibited both locally and internationally since 2004:

- International group exhibition titled The Story of Creative at SEE ME Gallery in 2013 in New York
- Slide show exhibition on 40 story building organized by SEE.ME in New York in 2012
- Ethiopian Contemporary Art Gallery at E.C.A.G in Addis Ababa in 2011
- Ras Birhan Art Gallery in Addis Ababa in 2009
- Participated on remarkable 100 meter canvas painting at Meskel Square, organized by UNFPA on the demonstration of STOP EARLY MARRIAGE in Addis Ababa in 2008
- 7th World Social Forum Kenya in 2007
- Ras Birhan Art Gallery, Addis Ababa in 2007
- Russia Tanzanian Cultural Center in Tanzania in 2006
- Habesha Art Gallery and Unity University in Addis Ababa in 2005
- British International Study Center and German Embassy School in Addis Ababa in 2004



Anla

Henok



HENOCK AZENE

EDUCATION: Henock Azene was born in 1991 in Bahir Dar. He attended secondary school, higher education and preparatory school in Bahir Dar. In 2012, Henock was coached by German sculptor, Nicolaus Wilbrandt Ger and consequently, attended Fine Arts and Design at the Alle School of Fine Arts in Addis Ababa University, in 2009, where he achieved BFA Degree in 2013.

CAREER: Henock has participated in a variety of projects internationally and locally. Also he achieved the Addis Development Vision award in November 2011 and the United Nation Children's Fund award in June 2008. His works have been featured in a number of exhibitions:

- Group exhibition at the National Theater Gallery, Addis Ababa in 2008
- Group exhibition at the Golagoltower, Addis Ababa in 2012
- Graduation Group exhibition at Alle School of Fine Arts and Design, Addis Ababa in 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Experimental performance in a public place after taking a workshop with professional dance and performance teachers from NORWAY 2012
- Mosaic Art & Sculpture inside Amhara region at the parliament building, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia 2012
- Community Art (Art therapy) for under-16 juvenile convicts, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Voluntary teaching kids at orphanage, Addis Ababa Ethiopia
- Performance project and perform on public space the project was for 6 weeks with professional performers from Norway (moving society Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 2014





JOSEPH HABTEMARIAM

EDUCATION: Joseph Habtemariam completed his BA from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design specializing 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 diverse people, cultures and lifestyles, providing him with the material for his work. His ideas are stimulated, for his sketches whilst walking through Addis Ababa.

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





KIDANE GETAW

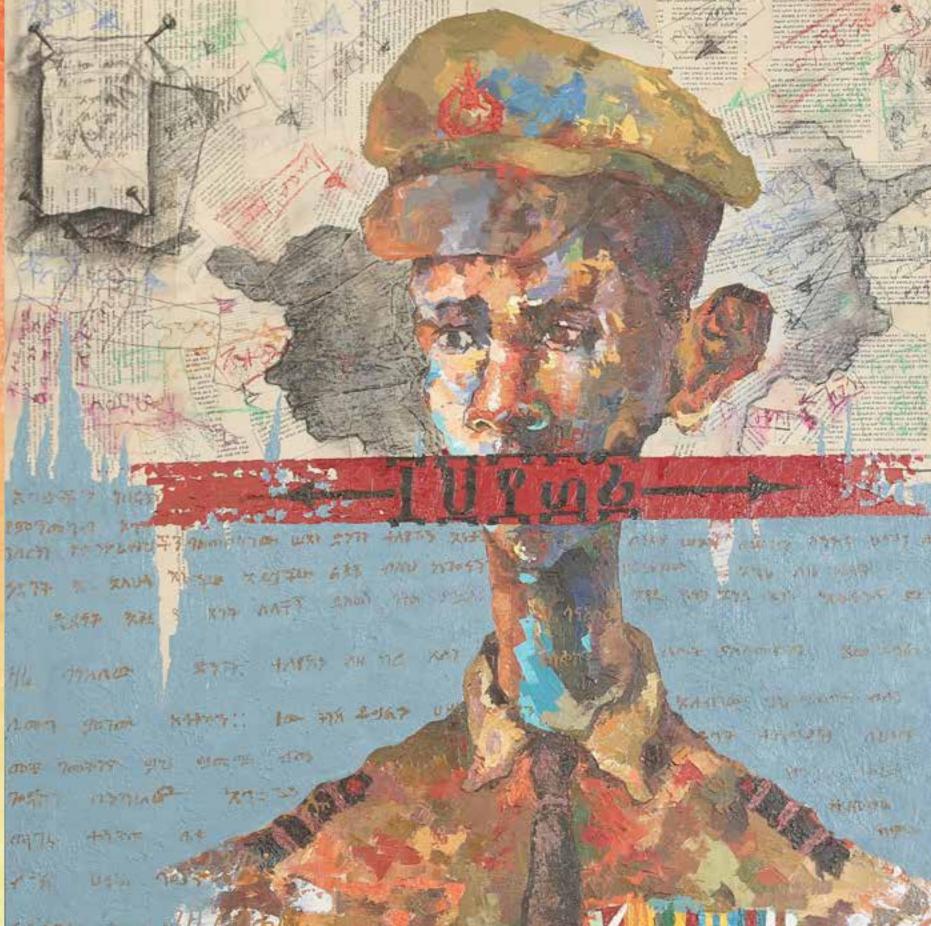
EDUCATION: Kidane Getaw was born in Addis Ababa, in 1994. He has been practicing as a studio artist for the past five years. During this time he was able to produce a number of paintings using different medias, such as oil, water color, charcoal and acrylic paints. In 2004, he joined the Abbysinia Art School where he graduated with distinction in painting and sculpture. He has developed his art under the guidance of artists Worku Mamo, Girma Agegnehu and Abebe Kassaye.

CAREER: Including his graduation exhibition he has participated in more than five group exhibitions, such as:

- Two exhibitions at the National Theatre in 2004 and 2005 organized by the Abysinia Art School
- Exhibition at the Netsa Art Village in 2006
- Exhibition at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Hall in 2006 organized by the Ministry of Education
- Exhibition at the Millennium Hall in 2007 organized by the Dashen Beer and Exhibition
- The Alliance Ethio-Francaise in 2007 organized by the Association of Ethiopian artists

INSPIRATION: As a young studio artist he is inspired to experiment with new mediums and techniques in order to evolve his working methods.

NOW: He is a full-time studio artist.



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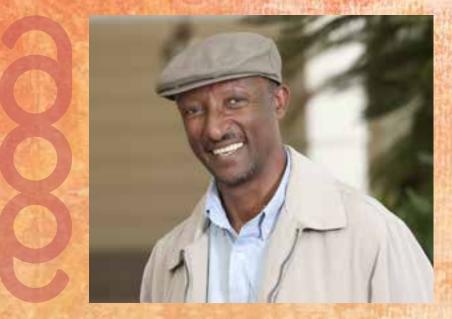
EDUCATION: Lulseged Retta, one of Ethiopia's illustrious artists was born in 1952. His life and work have featured in various national and international publications over the years. He received a Diploma in Painting from the Addis Ababa University, School of Fine Arts and Design. He continued further 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 headed 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.





MEZGEBU TESSEMA

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.





NIGATU SOLOMON

EDUCATION: Nigatu Solomon was born in the town of Dessie, Southern Wollo, in 1986. Growing up with an artist father he became 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 was 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 overlapped in a 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.



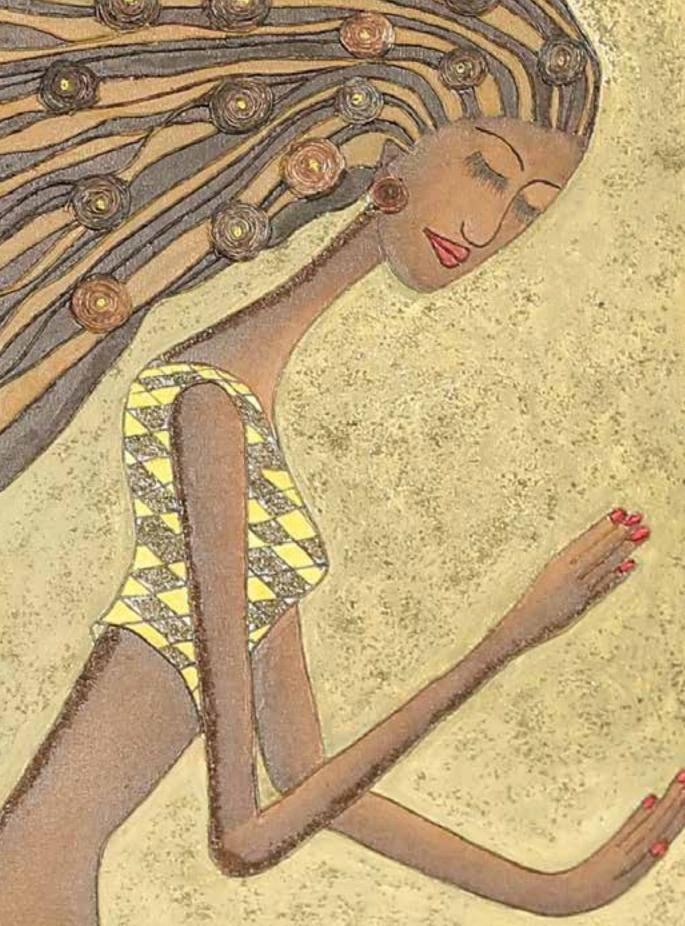


RUTH TEFERI

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

CAREER: Following her post-graduation in fundamental drawing and painting from the Russian Center for Science and Culture, as a young creative talent her work has been featured at the Russian Center for Science and Culture in 2007 and also at the United Nations Art Festival in 2014. She also participated in Art of Ethiopia 2014 at the Sheraton Addis.

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.





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 graduation he stayed in Dessie where he worked to promote art. As a result of his commitment to training young people he guided and produced many young artists.

CAREER: Seyoum participated in the Art and Culture Panel at the World Eonomic Forum 2012. He has participated in several solo and group exhibitions in Ethiopia as well as other places around 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 former 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. 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.





TAMERAT SILTAN

EDUCATION: Tamerat Siltan was born in September 12, 1975 in Addis Ababa. He attained his higher education in Addis Ababa and graduated from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts in 1999. He uses woodcutting, etching, screen print painting, pen and inks as a media.

CAREER: Tamerat has exhibited in group and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally:

- Russia Science & Culture Center 1997
- ECA/Rotunda Hall 1998
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise 2000
- Russia Science & Culture Center 2002
- Hager Feker Theatre 2003
- Hilton Hotel 2004
- Habesha Gallery 2004
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise 2009
- Washington DC 2012

INSPIRATION: Creative techniques through various mediums to cultivate his work.



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TESFA SOLOMON

EDUCATION: Tesfa Solomon was born in Dessie in 1984. He attended the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Art and Design where he achieved a Bachelor of Fine Arts in the department of Visual Communication, in 2007.

CAREER: He began working as an art teacher at the Gibson Academy in 2007-2009. He has been working as an Assistant Lecturer since 2009 at the Entoto TVT College. He has participated in several group and solo exhibitions such as the Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Ethiopia National Museum, the Millennium Hall, the Boston Tropical Zoon, the Italian Culture, the Makush Art Gallery, the Addis Ababa University School of Fine Art, The Serenade Restaurant Art Gallery.

INSPIRATION: He is inspired by television, develping vague images to develop a new impressive style.

NOW: He is an assistant lecturer at Entoto TVET College.





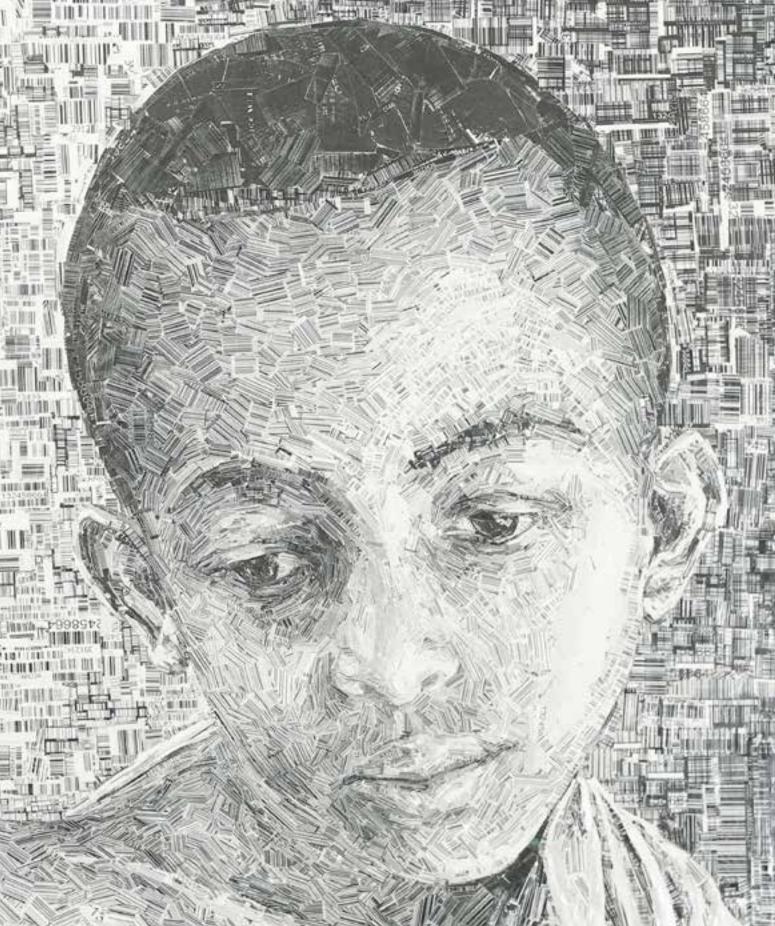
TEWODROS BEKELE

EDUCATION: Tewodros Bekele was born in Addis Ababa in 1984, graduated in 2004 from the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design, Addis Ababa University.

CAREER: Tewodros was the 2012 winner of the annual open call Fana Wogi, for his installation work with recycled plastic bottles. He creatively employs recycle materials to demonstrate todays ever changing world .

INSPIRATION: Expressing art through real experiences, conscious and unconscious emotions.

NOW: Works as a full-time artist.



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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 which exist in modern societies. Through them he gets the energy and passion to recreate art that expresses joy, hope, love, and all good things in life.

NOW: Currently, he is engaged in the theme 'Music and Musicians', in which he tries to express, interpret and experiment to reflect the mood, emotions, movements and rhythms of music and musicians.





TIZTA 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 Bachelor's 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 and Art of Ethiopia 2014 at the Sheraton Addis.

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





TSEGA TESEMA

EDUCATION: Tsega Tesema was born on August 16th, 1988 in Addis Ababa. He studied his high school at Kolfa Secondary School and joined Enlightenment Art Academy (E.A.A) in 2007 where he graduated in drawing and painting in 2012. He also studied at the Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in 2006 and graduated in 2007 in 2007.

CAREER: His work has been featured in the following places:

- Ethiopian National Theater Art Gallery in August 2008 and February 2011
 Laphto Complex Arg Gallery in May 2009
- USA Embassy in January 2011
- Italian Culture Institute in June 2012

INSPIRATION: Tsega draws his inspiration from landscape, sky and his surroundings.

NOW: He is employed part-time at the Ministry of Education as a graphic designer, book cover designer and illustrator.





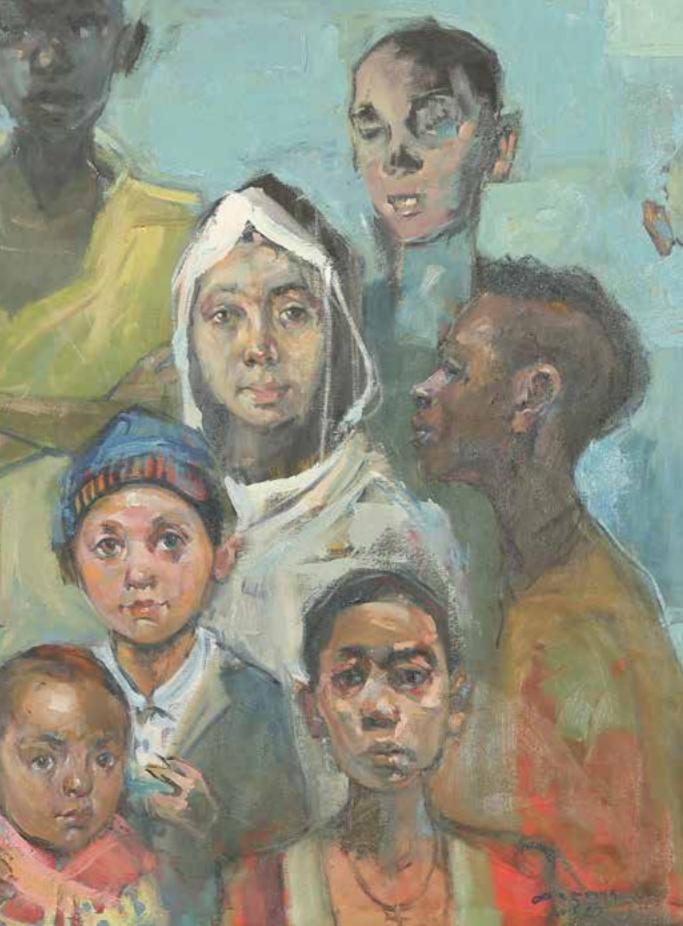
WONDIMAGEGNE GASHAW

EDUCATION: Wendimagegne 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 USA and the UK Embassy Art Fairs. He teaches art to students at the Abyssinia Fine Arts and Armin School. His work has been featured in many solo and group exhibitions such as the National Theatre, the National Museum and the Alliance Éthio-Française. He also participated in the Art of Ethiopia at the Sheraton Addis in 2014.

INSPIRATION: Art he believes is like second nature to him as it comes to him without any effort. He seeks inspiration from his environment, especially 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 at 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 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.





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, Art of Ethiopia 2014 at the Sheraton Addis, 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 abstract realistic work that connects the living subject matter of his still life through figurative paintings which he expresses in a bold and innovative manner.





YOHANNES BAYOU FIKRE

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

CAREER: He has participated three times in group exhibitions that were 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 an artwork competition that was presented by UNFPA in 2012. His work has also been featured in major Ethiopian art galleries including Art of Ethiopia 2014 at the Sheraton Addis.

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 is convinced that he can bring about a positive change in the society through his work.

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





YONAS TILAHUN

EDUCATION: Yonas Tilahun was born in Debre Birhan and graduated from Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in department of Painting.

CAREER: He has participated in group and solo exhibitions in various places:

- At Alle School of Fine Arts and Design
- Guramille Art Center
- Visual Art Meets Fashion Kale Hotel
 Stoke of Love at Morning Star

INSPIRATION: His passion is the combination of his childhood memories of the forest and the intricate beauty of trees.





ZEKARIAS KETEMA

EDUCATION: Zekarias Ketema was born on August 13th, 1973 in Addis Ababa. He attended the Abyssinia Fine Arts & Vocational Training Center in 1998 where he received a certificate in Sculpture in 1998. He went on to further his education at the Entoto Technical and Vocational Education and Training College, Addis Ababa where he received a Diploma in Fine Arts, in 2003.

CAREER: Zekarias has exhibited his work in groups and individually in various locations since 1996:

- Taitu hotel in 2005
- The new African Union Building at the National Museum in 2004
- Harmony Group Art Show, Ethiopian National Museum in Addis Ababa in 2003
- Entoto Techinical and Vocational Education and Training College Art Gallery in 2003
- Alliance Ethio-Francaise Addis Ababa in 2003
- Faces of Women National Theater Art Gallery in 2003
- Addis Ababa Museum in 2002
- National Theater Art Gallery in 1999
- Abyssinia Fine Art Training Center Art Gallery in 1999





ZEKIROS T/HAIMANOT

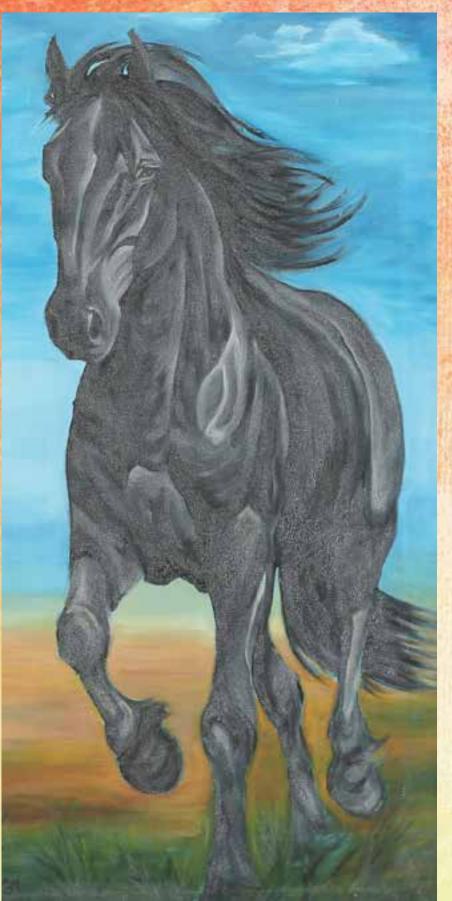
EDUCATION: Zekiros T/Haimanot was born on November 6th, 1978 in Mekele, Tigray. He graduated from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design in 2004 with a BFA. He specialized in Visual Communication (Graphic Art) and received a Master's Degree in Sweden from the Lund University, in the field of the History of Art, Visual Culture Study. He has also attended a number of workshops in South Africa and Sudan.

CAREER: Since 2005 Zekiros has exhibited nationally and internationally in various locations:

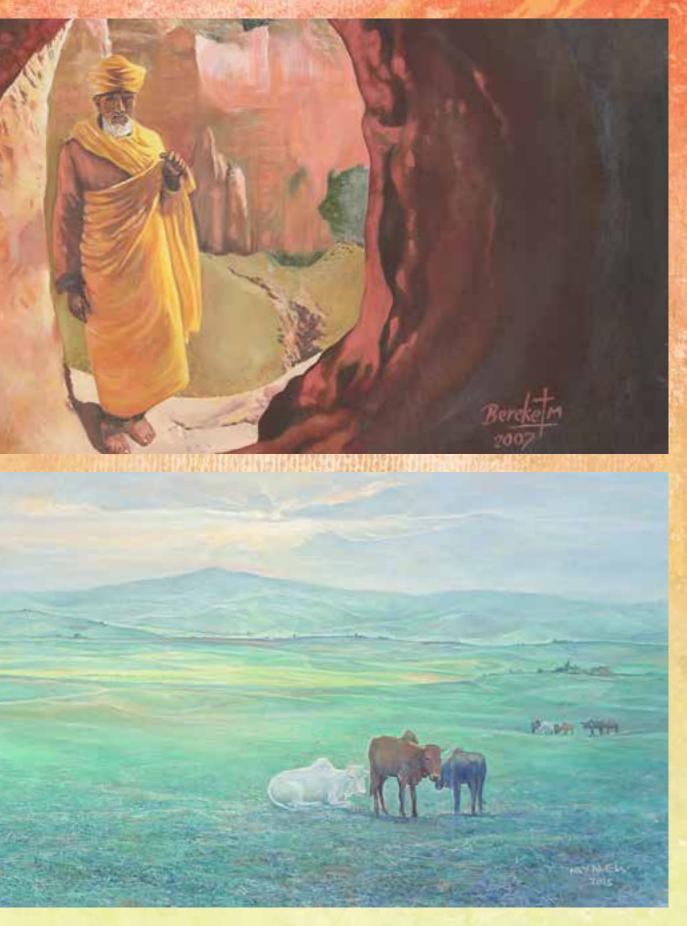
- Gallery Tapperpopermajer, Tecomatorp 2012 and 2013 in Sweden and Denmark in different countries
- Ethio-Swedish family association at Cothenburg, Sweden in 2012
- Ethio-Swedish family association at Jenköping, Sweden in 2011
- Cross Over Center, Copenhagen, Denmark in In 2010
- YBC Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden in 2010
- Ethio-Swedish Family Association at Halmstad, Sweden in 2010
- Gallery PurPur, Helsingborg, Sweden in 2010
- Gallery Tapper-Popermajer, Teckomatorps, Sweden in 2009
- Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa in 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
- Italian Cultural Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2007
- Makush Art Gallery, Ethiopia in 2006
- Olympiacos Hellenic Athletic Association Greek Club in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2005
 United Nation Clinic Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2005

NOW: He is voluntarily working at the Gallery Picture in Lund, Sweden.











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www.artofethiopia.com



