

Blue Nile Art



The Abyssinian Collection: 2014/15

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Blue Nile Art

Our Mission

Ethiopia's flourishing art market hosts many artists that today continue to explore a broad and eclectic range of styles and influences. It is our mission to promote and support this diverse breadth of work through sourcing, commissioning and sharing a range of Ethiopian art so as to capture and celebrate the richness and diversity unique to the 'Horn of Africa'.

This initiative began in 2014 by sibling quartet: Graham, Christopher, Catherine and Jennifer Parrott. At the forefront of this venture, Graham and Catherine Parrott – with Management Consultant and Art Theory backgrounds respectively – are currently based in London, UK, and Addis, Ethiopia.

We maintain exclusive representation of our artists and their work, with holdings of original artwork for sale in both London and Addis.

Our Story

Catherine

Born and trained in the UK, Catherine's academic background in Art History and Theory has equipped Blue Nile Art with the knowledge and research-tools to fully understand, appreciate and support the local culture and artwork sourced from Ethiopia.

For Catherine, it is this opportunity to faithfully represent practitioners, their work and ideas that serves as a greatly rewarding incentive for the project.

Graham

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Graham has lived and travelled across Africa, Europe and Asia, before moving to Ethiopia in 2014. He lives in the Bole area of Addis and works directly with the local artists, spending much of his time immersing himself in the blossoming art scene.

For Graham, it was this first-hand experience with the artists and their work that motivated the beginnings of this venture.

Blue Nile Art has access to work from many artists which is available for viewing upon request.

If you wish to find out more about any of our featured artwork, the artists or to purchase a piece, please contact us.

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Abraham Abebe

There are two composite focuses within the work of Abraham Abebe; that of a modern representation of Ethiopian life and that which references back to traditional iconography. Within a large portion of his work he adopts a bold use of pure colour and geometric form to create flat and abstract depictions of everyday life in modern Ethiopia. Elsewhere in his work he explores the symbol of the yellow Meskel flower, a traditional religious icon.

This stylistic focus on abstraction and flatness throughout his range of subject matter eludes to the Cubist and Futurist modern art movements. Through this point of reference Abraham is able to showcase modern Ethiopian art as having the ability to equal Western art.





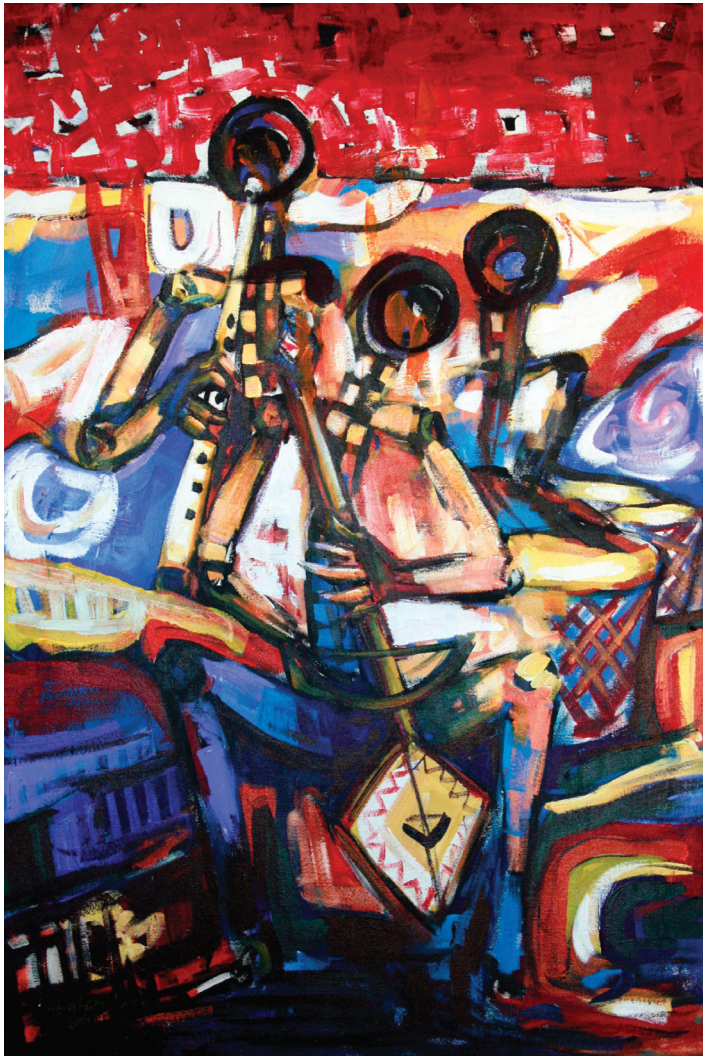
1



3



2



4

1
ABRAHAM ABEBE
ETHIOPIAN JAZZ
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 120 cm

2
ABRAHAM ABEBE
BICYCLE
Acrylic on Canvas
100 x 150 cm

3
ABRAHAM ABEBE
FOOTBALL PLAYERS
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 120 cm

4
ABRAHAM ABEBE
THREE MUSICIANS
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 90 cm

7
ABRAHAM ABEBE
MESKEL FLOWERS
2
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 120 cm

8
ABRAHAM ABEBE
MESKEL FLOWERS
3
Acrylic on Canvas
70 x 175 cm



5

5
ABRAHAM ABEBE
DEEP BLUE
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 120 cm

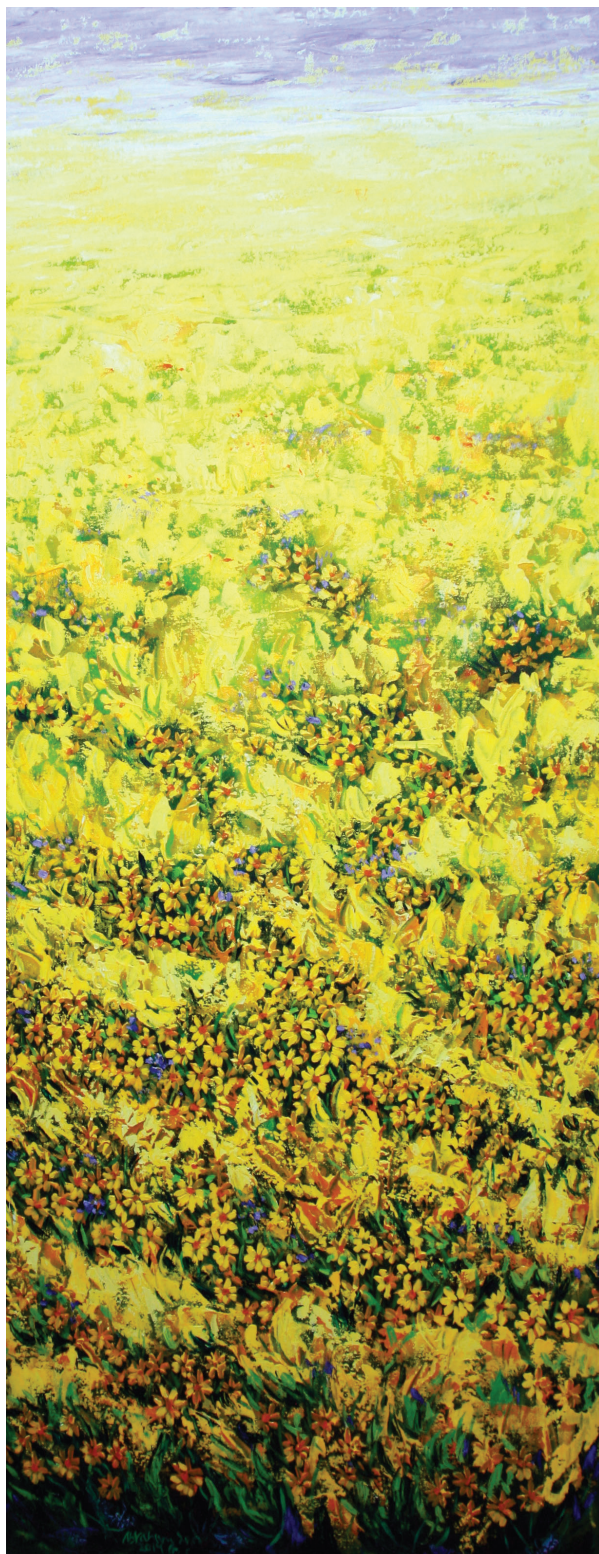
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ABRAHAM ABEBE
MESKEL FLOWERS 1
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 120 cm



6



7



8

Elias Areda

The work of Elias Areda, focusses on the motif of the Ethiopian Woman. Through his bold use of vivid colour and form within his depictions, Elias creates an expressive representation of the strong women seen central within Ethiopian culture and Art.

With a solid emphasis on community within his work, central to contemporary Ethiopian life, his narratives focus on women and their roles within Ethiopian society. Through a combination of expressive composition, surface pattern and heavy brushwork Elias is able to celebrate and showcase his cultural heritage whilst also creating artwork that is both visually striking but powerfully emotive.





9



11



10



12



13

9

ELIAS AREDA
EMBUSHEGELA

Acrylic on Canvas
65 x 69 cm

10

ELIAS AREDA
FRUIT SELLER

Acrylic on Canvas
72 x 86 cm

11

ELIAS AREDA
THE LIGHT SOURCE

Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 140 cm

12

ELIAS AREDA
*SITTING GIRLS IN
THE MARKET*

Acrylic on Canvas
65 x 71 cm

13

ELIAS AREDA
HARAR WOMEN

Acrylic on Canvas
75 x 93 cm

Makeda Bizuneh

The work of Makeda Bizuneh centres on creating semi-abstract and decorative depictions of the slum houses of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

With the use of busy composition, intense colour alongside geometric form and pattern, Makeda effectively creates an underlying tension that captures the conflicting realities of life in the city. Ultimately this serves to represent not only her physical experiences within Addis Ababa, but the emotional reality of the area and culture of Addis Ababa.





14

14
MAKEDA BIZUNEH
*THE ROOFS IN THE
 MOONLIGHT*
 Acrylic on Canvas
 100 x 100 cm

16
MAKEDA BIZUNEH
*HOUSES IN
 WINDOW*
 Acrylic on Canvas
 67 x 81 cm

18
MAKEDA BIZUNEH
BLACK GOLD
 Acrylic on Canvas
 66 x 82 cm

15
MAKEDA BIZUNEH
*PEARLS ON THE
 ROAD*
 Acrylic on Canvas
 57 x 70 cm

17
MAKEDA BIZUNEH
SUSPENDED SOUL
 Acrylic on Canvas
 66 x 81 cm

19
MAKEDA BIZUNEH
*SLUMHOUSE IN
 PATTERN*
 Acrylic on Canvas
 51 x 70 cm



15



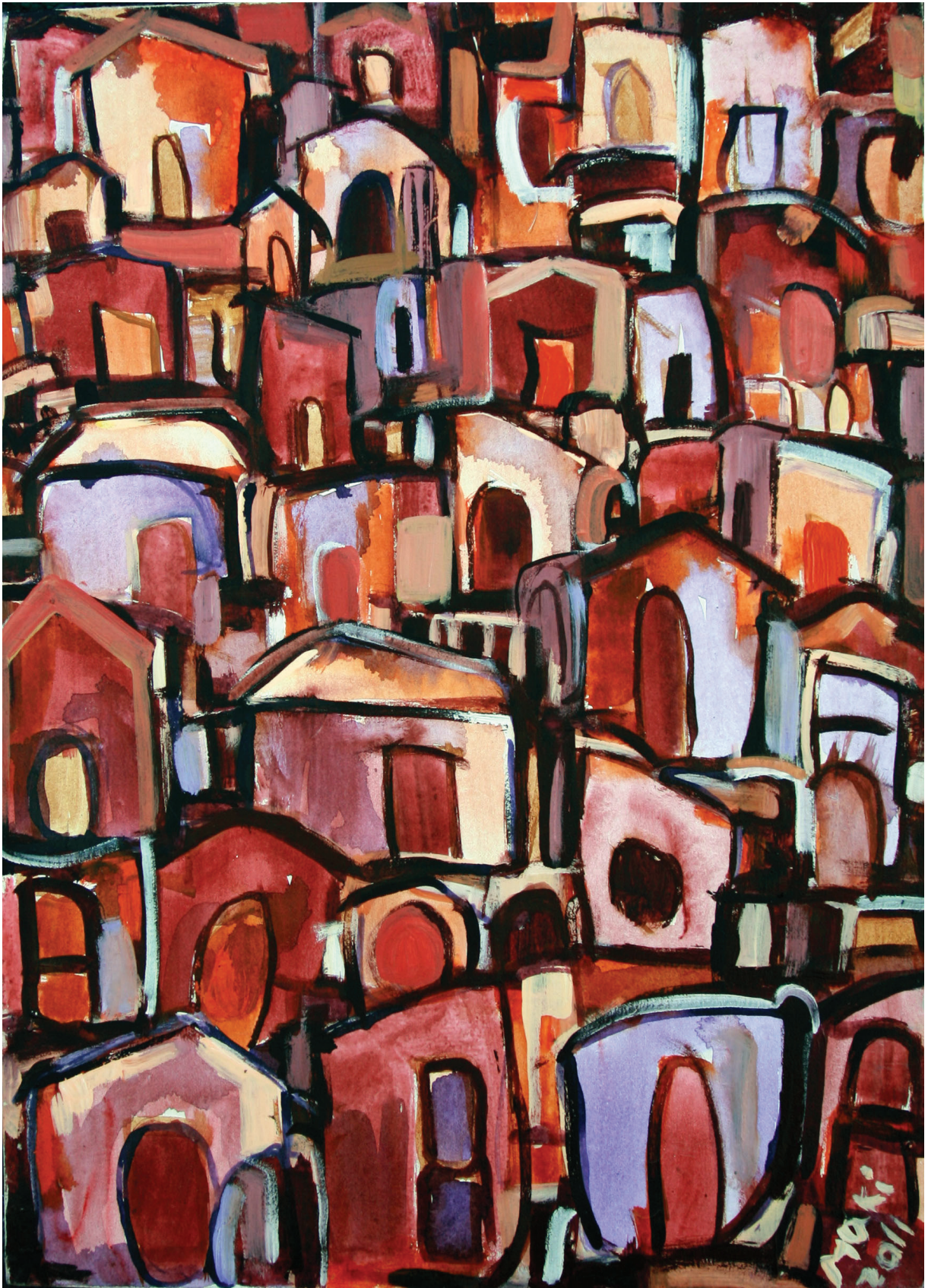
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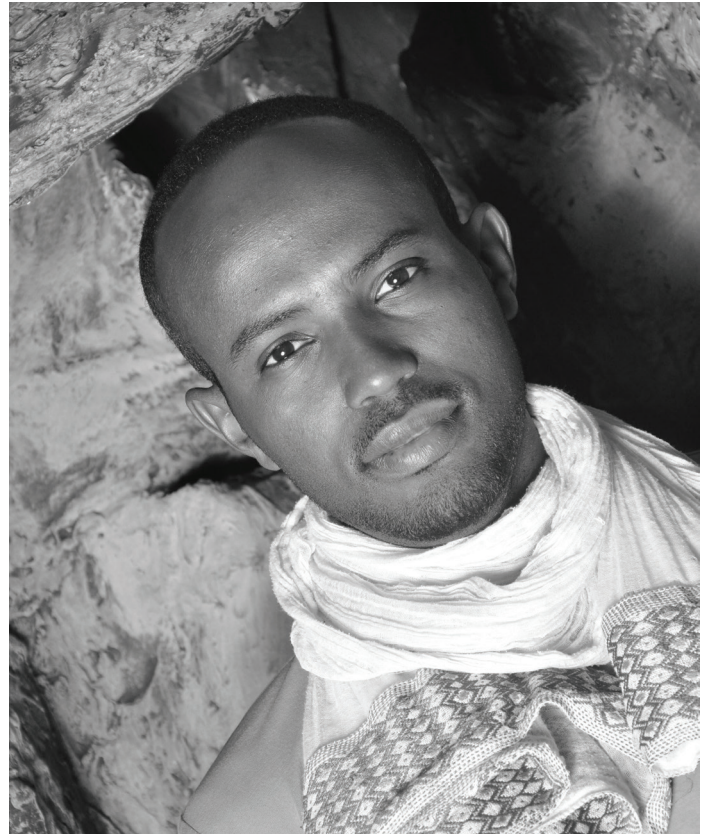
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Yonas Degefa

Throughout a vast and varied catalogue of work, the art created by Yonas Degefa primarily focusses on three main themes; the unconscious, romanticism and the figure of the woman.

His initial experimentation of poetic verse, used in order to explore his mind's own inner workings, has since helped Yonas to create a visual order that moves away from pure naturalism. Through a use of bold colour and abstract form, Yonas continues his poetic experimentation in order to create depictions of Ethiopian life that are relatable yet still deeply representative of his own individuality.

Another notable influence evident throughout Yonas' body of work is traditional Ethiopian iconography, and stylistic qualities found throughout the art history of Ethiopia. This faithful use of these external influences teamed with his own personal motifs, enables Yonas to create a range of work which explores his rich and complex heritage, but which also reflects his own responses to the contemporary cultural climate of Ethiopia.





20



21

20
YONAS DEGEFA
*ETHIOPIAN
IMPRESSION*
Acrylic on Canvas
102 x 102 cm

21
YONAS DEGEFA
ADDIS GIRL
Acrylic on Canvas
59 x 80 cm

22
YONAS DEGEFA
*CRADLING THE
WORLD*
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 80 cm

23
YONAS DEGEFA
*CEREMONIAL
BRIDE*
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 65 cm

24
YONAS DEGEFA
AFRICAN FACE
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 65 cm

25
YONAS DEGEFA
UNITY
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 80 cm

26
YONAS DEGEFA
ETHIOPIQUE
Acrylic on Canvas
110 x 145 cm



22



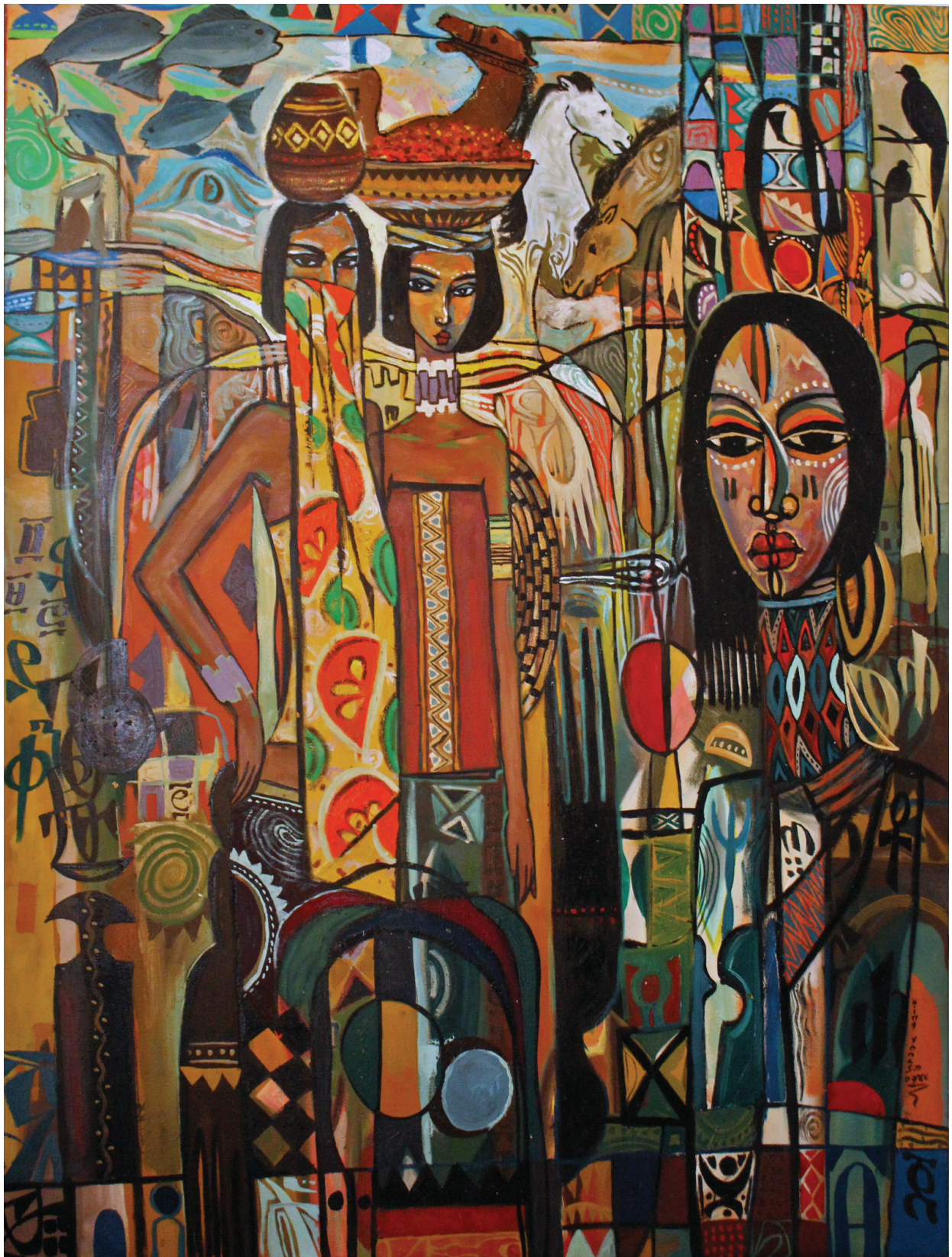
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23



25



Aklilu Temesgen

Aklilu Temesgen's fluid use of style and abstract form creates a collection of work that draws a focus away from creating lucid narratives of Ethiopian life in favour for much more decorative representations.

Aklilu's strong play of pattern, colour and expressive form is a result of his on-going exploration of the traditional abstract style found within Ethiopia's visual history. His loose interpretations of contemporary Ethiopian life create a harmonious aesthetic which is characterised by a vibrancy of colour and movement.







28



29



30

27

AKLILU TEMESGEN
*A GIRL WITH
UMBRELLA*

Oil on Canvas
80 x 120 cm

30

AKLILU TEMESGEN
MY VILLAGE

Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 60 cm

28

AKLILU TEMESGEN
CHEWATA

Acrylic on Canvas
130 x 170 cm

31

AKLILU TEMESGEN
FLOWER

Oil on Canvas
80 x 100 cm

29

AKLILU TEMESGEN
NEAR THE MARKET

Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 70 cm





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