

# Blue Nile Art



**The Abyssinian Collection: 2015**



# The Abyssian Collection: 2015

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FRONT COVER:

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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 nods 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

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

**6**  
ABRAHAM ABEBE  
*MESKEL FLOWERS 1*  
Acrylic on Canvas  
120 x 120 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





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. Elias is able to celebrate and showcase his cultural heritage through a combination of expressive composition, surface pattern and heavy brushwork, whilst also creating artwork that is both visually striking but powerfully emotive.

## Exhibitions

- Addis Ababa University of Fine Art & Design, Ethiopia, 1995
- Addis Ababa Helton Hotel, Ethiopia, 1997-98
- Addis Ababa Sheraton Hotel, Ethiopia, 2000-01
- Addis Ababa National Museum, Ethiopia 2004
- Alliance Ethio Francise, Ethiopia, 2005
- Italian Cultural Institute, United Kingdom, 2006
- (Cartoon Exhibition) Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre, Ethiopia, 2006
- Bulgarian Embassy, Ethiopia, 2007
- Makush Gallery, Ethiopia, 2009-11







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

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

Makeda's busy compositions and intense colours alongside geometric form and pattern enable her to effectively create 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.

## Exhibitions

- "Listros a Dream in a Box", Addis Ababa University of Fine Art and Design, Ethiopia, 2009
- "Fund-raise program for Children" at KZ Hotel, Ethiopia, 2010
- "Four Freedoms" American Embassy, Addis Ababa, 2010
- First Annual Ethiopian Visual Artists Exhibition, Laphto Center, Ethiopia, 2011
- "Inspired Women" Art Exhibitions, Laphto Centre, Ethiopia, 2012-3
- "The Three Ethiopian Women Artists", WIPO Geneva, Switzerland, 2012
- "Art of Ethiopia" 5th and 6th Annual Exhibitions, the Sheraton, Addis, 2012-2013
- National Museum of Ethiopia, Ethiopia, 2013
- "Ethiopian Coffee", (with Bonga Coffee Museum and the Women Artists Association, National Museum of Ethiopia, Ethiopia, 2013





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

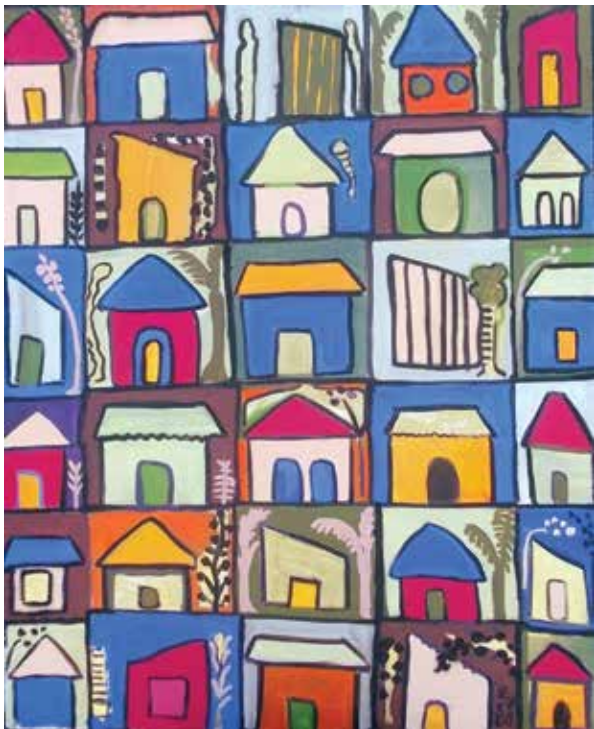




15



17



16



18





19



# Yonas Degefa

Yonas Degefa's vast and varied catalogue of work demonstrates a continued exploration of three main themes: the unconscious, romanticism and the figure of the woman.

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 individual responses to the contemporary cultural climate of Ethiopia.

## Exhibitions

- Alliance Ethio- Francaise, Ethiopia, 2009-2012
- Kriftu Resort and Spa, Ethiopia, 2009-
- Harmony Hotel, Ethiopia, 2009-
- Makush Gallery, Ethiopia, 2009-
- St George Gallery, Ethiopia, 2009-
- Art Fair, Boston Day Spa, Ethiopia, 2011
- The first Ethiopian Annual Art Exhibition, Ethiopia, 2011
- Sheraton Addis Hotel, Art of Ethiopia Exhibition, Ethiopia, 2013





20





21

**20**

YONAS DEGEFA  
*ETHIOPIAN  
IMPRESSION*

Acrylic on Canvas  
102 x 102 cm

**22**

YONAS DEGEFA  
*CRADLING THE  
WORLD*

Acrylic on Canvas  
60 x 80 cm

**24**

YONAS DEGEFA  
*AFRICAN FACE*

Acrylic on Canvas  
60 x 65 cm

**26**

YONAS DEGEFA  
*ETHIOPIQUE*

Acrylic on Canvas  
110 x 145 cm

**21**

YONAS DEGEFA  
*CEREMONIAL  
BRIDE*

Acrylic on Canvas  
60 x 65 cm

**23**

YONAS DEGEFA  
*UNITY*

Acrylic on Canvas  
60 x 80 cm

**25**

YONAS DEGEFA  
*ADDIS GIRL*

Acrylic on Canvas  
59 x 80 cm





22



24



23



25





# Aklilu Temesgen

Aklilu Temesgen's fluid use of style and abstract form creates a collection of work that redirects 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.

## Exhibitions

- The Blen Art show - Skunder Boghossian Showcase Event, New York, 2004
- National Black Fine Art show, New York, 2005
- Hilton Hotel, Ethiopia, 2005-
- Italian Cultural Institute, Addis, 2005-
- Makush Gallery, Addis, 2005-
- British Council for Ethiopian studies, Italy and Iran, 2005-









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





# Abraham Woldegebrel

Many of Abraham's themes originate from his childhood experiences and his upbringing in Autobusterra - a small village in Addis. Growing up he was witness to many instances of hardships; in particular poverty, addiction, conflict and immorality.

Over the years Abraham observed many people, teenagers, or children, stray onto numerous dangerous paths, unaware of the consequences of their actions until the very end. He would see the whole process unfold and came to appreciate that every path has a truth and a consequence. This has subsequently become the conceptual foundation for many of his works. He captures consequences of actions through the emotive expressions he displays in his subjects. Deep colours reflect the subject's state of mind which can be subtly interpreted in a number of his portraits.

## Exhibitions

- Group exhibition, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, 2008
- National Theatre, United Kingdom, 2008
- Gothe Institute, German authors and the Painting Tradition", Berlin, 2009
- US Embassy, Addis Ababa (Prize Winner for Painting), Ethiopia, 2009
- Group exhibition, Alliance Ethio-Francaise, Ethiopia, 2011







32



33



34



35

32

ABRAHAM WOLDE-  
GEBREL

*WAITING FOR  
RAINS*

Oil on Canvas

90 x 100 cm

33

ABRAHAM WOLDE-  
GEBREL

*STRUGGLE*

Oil on Canvas

75 x 100 cm

34

ABRAHAM WOLDE-  
GEBREL

*MISSING*

Oil on Canvas

80 x 100 cm

35

ABRAHAM WOLDE-  
GEBREL

*TRUTH AND CON-  
SEQUENCE*

Oil on Paper

40 x 60 cm



36



37





38

**36**

ABRAHAM WOLDE-  
GEBREL

*TRUTH AND CON-  
SEQUENCE*

Oil on Canvas

75 x 100 cm

**37**

ABRAHAM WOLDE-  
GEBREL

*PORTRAIT 1*

Acrylic on Canvas

100 x 110 cm

**38**

ABRAHAM WOLDE-  
GEBREL

*PORTRAIT 2*

Oil on Canvas

100 x 110 cm

# Leykun Wondifraw

Leykun Wondifraw focuses on the rainy cityscapes of Addis Ababa – the busiest and most frenetic city in Ethiopia. His works depict the disorder within the city; the sky-blue taxis, the large city buses, and the people walking through the streets of Addis in summer time (rainy season).

Throughout the majority of his paintings, Leykun adopts the viewer's perspective, looking out from inside city transport. As a result, most of his works have no clear image. The perspectives are distorted as heavy rain beats against the city's vehicles; shapes and objects are blurred, colours bleed into one another and it's this interpretation of life in Addis that forms the artist's unique style.

The medium Leykun opts for – oil on canvas – allows him to portray the city's wet asphalt roads during the summer and in using different types of brushes, knives and other tools, he manages to create a variety of textures and objects that illustrate every-day city life.

Shades of blue and grey dominate his paintings and through this muted palette the artist faithfully reflects the city's atmosphere during its rainy season.





39

LEYKUN WONDI-FRAW

*MISTY WINDOW*

Oil on Canvas

95 x 110 cm

40

LEYKUN WONDI-FRAW

*MISTY WINDOW 3*

Oil on Canvas

70 x 90 cm

41

LEYKUN WONDI-FRAW

*PIASSA*

Oil on Canvas

95 x 110 cm



39



40



41



42





43

42

LEYKUN WONDI-FRAW

*FOG*

Oil on Canvas  
110 x 130 cm

44

LEYKUN WONDI-FRAW

*MISTY WINDOW 2*

Oil on Canvas  
70 x 90 cm

43

LEYKUN WONDI-FRAW

*RAINY CITYSCAPE*

Oil on Canvas  
110 x 120 cm

45

LEYKUN WONDI-FRAW

*GLOWING HAZE*

Oil on Canvas  
110 x 130 cm



44



45

# Yonatan Wondwosen

Yonatan Wondwosen grew up in an artistic family and was acquainted with art from a very young age. He comes from a sculpturing background and uses meticulous collage and paint techniques on paper or canvas to create his precise, detailed artworks.

Typically in his works his subjects are everyday items, people or environments. Often these are female figures, animals or outdoor settings common to Addis and Ethiopia and these images are carefully deconstructed and painstakingly rebuilt with specifically chosen collage pieces.

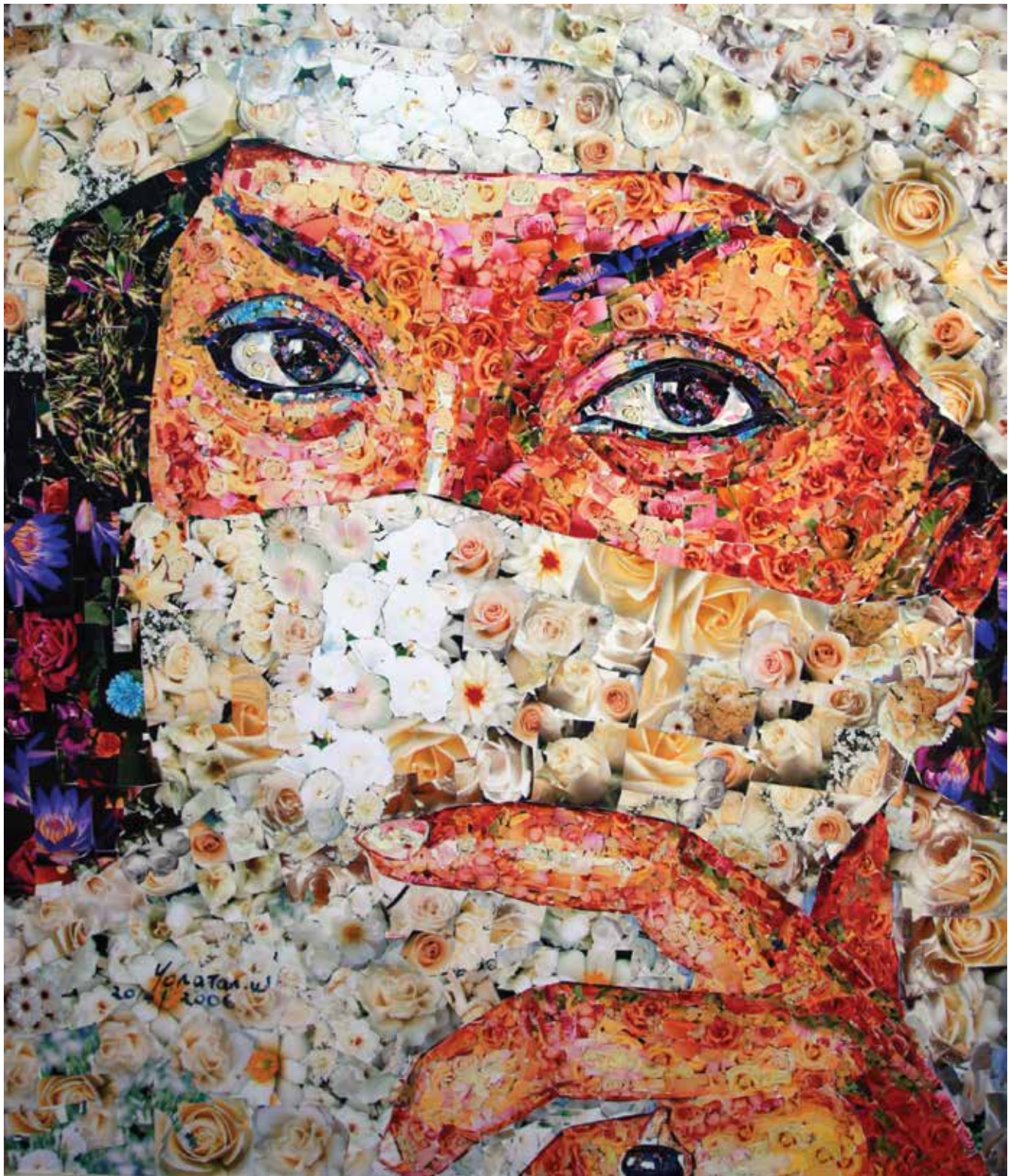
Yonatan adds a further dimension to his works by selecting collage materials that provide additional description and meaning to the artwork. Whether it is using coloured currency notes to cleverly represent a poker player, or a variety of coloured flowers to represent the female figure, Yonatan's attention to detail never fails to provide his works additional layers of meaning.

## Exhibitions

- National Museum of Ethiopia, 2012
- Addis Art Fair, Ethiopia, 2014
- Sheraton Addis Hotel, "Art of Ethiopia", Ethiopia, 2012-14











47



49



48

**46**

YONATAN WOND-  
WOSEN

*MYSTERIOUS EYES 1*

Photo Collage on Canvas

120 x 140 cm

**47**

YONATAN WOND-  
WOSEN

*SUNRISE*

*THROUGH TREES*

Photo Collage and Acrylic

on Canvas

100 X 100 cm

**48**

YONATAN WOND-  
WOSEN

*MYSTERIOUS EYES 2*

Photo Collage on Canvas

65 x 140 cm





50



52



51

**49**

YONATAN WOND-  
WOSEN

*THE ROOT*

Photo Collage on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm

**50**

YONATAN WOND-  
WOSEN

*AWAKENING*

Photo Collage on Canvas  
100 x 100 cm

**51**

YONATAN WOND-  
WOSEN

*THE LOTTERY MAN*

Photo Collage and Acrylic  
on Canvas  
110 x 130 cm

**52**

YONATAN WOND-  
WOSEN

*COMFORT*

Photo Collage and Acrylic  
on Canvas  
120 x 120 cm



# Blue Nile Art

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