

SAATCHI YATES

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TESFAYE URGESSA



(b.1983, Addis Ababa)

Currently lives and works in Germany

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Tesfaye Urgessa was born in 1983 and lives and works in Germany, having emigrated from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Urgessa's studied under modern master Tadesse Mesfin in Ethiopia, and later graduated from the Staatlichen Akademie in Stuttgart. Through these experiences, Urgessa was able to connect Ethiopian iconography and a deep fascination with traditional figurative painting to create a unique and striking language. His classical figurations with their writhing bodies create distorted psychological tension hidden in domestic settings. Urgessa's subject matter recalls intertwined representations of race and the politics of identity. His recent series "No Country For Young Men" squeezes queues of refugees into the space of a 180cm by 180cm canvas. Among his most celebrated exhibitions are *Oltre/Beyond* at The Uffizi Gallerie in Florence in 2018, which also hosts his work in its permanent collection, and *Von Denen Die Auszogen* at State Galerie Villa Streccius, in Landau Germanu, in 2019.

EDUCATION

- 2006 Alle School of Fine Art and Design, Addis Ababa.
2014 Staatlichen Akademie der Bilende Kunst, Stuttgart.

PRIZES

- 2010 Camillo-Michele-Gloria-Preis, GasVersorgung Süddeutschland, Stuttgart.
2014 Prize of the State Academy of Stuttgart.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Ch Halte Dich Esthalten*, Schacher – Raum für Kunst, Stuttgart.
 Von Denen Die Auszogen, State Galerie Villa, Streccius, Landau.
 Atemzug, Galerie Tobias Schrade, Ulm.
 No Country for Young Men, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2018 *Oltre/Beyond*, Uffizi Gallery, Florence.
 No Country for Young Men, Galerieverein Leonberg, Leonberg
2017 *Auszeit*, Galerieverein Wendlingen, Wendlingen.
 Free Fall, Galerie Evelyn Drewes, Hamburg.
2016 *Fremdkörper*, Schacher – Raum für Kunst, Stuttgart.
 Eithiopia Today, Kunstation Kleinassen, Hofbieber-Kleinassen.

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2015

Free Fall, Galerie Evelyn Drewes, Hamburg.

Body and Soul, Sympra GmbH, Stuttgart.

Untitled, Galerie K, Köln, Germany.