



Tesfaye Urgessa

b.1983, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Urgessa 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.

Selected exhibitions include *Oltre/Beyond* at Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy (2018); *The Stand- Ins: Figurative Painting from the Collection*, Zabludowicz Collection, London, UK (2021); *The New African Portraiture*, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, Austria (2022); *Tesfaye Urgessa*, Rubell Museum Miami, Miami, USA (2022); *Tense Conditions: A Presentation of Contemporary African Art*, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, GR. Urgessa's work is held in the permanent collections of, Zabludowicz Collection, London, UK; Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy; Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy; Kunstmuseum, Stuttgart, Germany; Rubell Museum, Miami, USA; Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany; The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco. Tesfaye Urgessa has been chosen to represent Ethiopia at the 60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia.

ARTIST CV

EDUCATION

Alle School of Fine Art and Design, Addis Ababa, ET
Staatlichen Akademie der Bildende Kunst, Stuttgart, GR

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA
Zabludowicz Collection, London, UK
Castello di Rivoli, Turin, IT
Uffizi Gallery, Florence, IT
Kunstmuseum, Stuttgart, GR
Rubell Museum, Miami, USA
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, GR
The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech, MA
Cheng-Lan Foundation, Hong Kong SAR & London, UK
Sunderland Collection, CH

AWARDS

2010 Camillo-Michele-Gloria-Preis, Gas Versorgung Südd
2014 Prize of the State Academy of Stuttgart, GR

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Tesfaye Urgessa: Primordial Paths*, Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, CH
2025 *Roots of Resilience: Tesfaye Urgessa*, The Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, UK
2024 *Ethiopia Pavilion at the 60th International Art Exhibition*, La Biennale di Venezia, IT
Tesfaye Urgessa, Saatchi Yates, London, UK
2023 *Bathers*, Saatchi Yates, London, UK
Tense Conditions: A Presentation of Contemporary African Art, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, GR
2022 *The New African Portraiture*, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, AT
Tesfaye Urgessa, Rubell Museum Miami, Miami, USA
Tesfaye Urgessa, Saatchi Yates Miami, Miami, USA
2021 *Tesfaye Urgessa*, Saatchi Yates, London, UK
The Stand-Ins: Figurative Painting from the Collection, Zabludowicz Collection, London, UK
From Modern to Contemporary: Artists from the Horn of Africa and Diaspora, CFHILL, Stockholm, SE
2020 *Nach wind greifen*, Kreuzkirche, Nürtinger, GR
Was Meinen Sie, Frau Hoffman?, Galerie ABTART, Stuttgart, GR
Übersche Mich Nicht, Galerie Schrade, Schloss Mochental, GR
2019 *Ch Halte Dich Esthalten*, Schacher – Raum für Kunst, Stuttgart, GR
Von Denen Die Auszogen, State Galerie Villa, Streccius, Landau, GR
Atemzug, Galerie Tobias Schrade, Ulm, GR
No Country for Young Men, Addis Ababa, ET
2018 *Oltre/Beyond*, Uffizi Gallery, Florence, IT
No Country for Young Men, Galerieverein Leonberg, DE
2017 *Auszeit*, Galerieverein Wendlingen, Wendlingen, GR

Free Fall, Galerie Evelyn Drewes, Hamburg, GR

2016 *Fremdkörper*, Schacher — Raum für Kunst, Stuttgart, GR

Ethiopia Today, Kunstation Kleinassen, Hofbieber-Kleinassen, GR

2015 *Free Fall*, Galerie Evelyn Drewes, Hamburg, GR

Body and Soul, Sympra GmbH, Stuttgart, GR

Untitled, Galerie K, K In, GR