

SAATCHI YATES

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TESFAYE URGESSA

(b.1983, Addis Ababa)

Currently lives and works in Nürtingen, Germany

Tesfaye Urgessa was born in 1983 and lives and works in 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*, Zabłudowicz Collection, London, England (2021); *The New African Portraiture*, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, Austria (2022); *Tesfaye Urgessa*, Rubell Museum Miami, Miami, United States of America (2022); *Tense Conditions: A Presentation of Contemporary African Art*, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany. Urgessa's work is held in the permanent collections of, Zabłudowicz Collection, London, England; Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy; Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy; Kunstmuseum, Stuttgart, Germany; Rubell Museum, Miami, United States of America; 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.

EDUCATION

Alle School of Fine Art and Design, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Staatlichen Akademie der Bildende Kunst, Stuttgart, Germany.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Zabludowicz Collection, London, England.
Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy.
Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.
Kunstmuseum, Stuttgart, Germany.
Rubell Museum, Miami, United States of America.
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany.
The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco.

AWARDS

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

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Ethiopia Pavilion* at the 60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, Italy.
Tesfaye Urgessa, Saatchi Yates, London, England.

2023 *Bathers*, Saatchi Yates, London, England.
Tense Conditions: A Presentation of Contemporary African Art, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany.

2022 *The New African Portraiture*, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, Austria.
Tesfaye Urgessa, Rubell Museum Miami, Miami, United States of America.
Tesfaye Urgessa, Saatchi Yates Miami, Miami, United States of America.

2021 *Tesfaye Urgessa*, Saatchi Yates, London, England.
The Stand-Ins: Figurative Painting from the Collection, Zabludowicz Collection, London, England.
From Modern to Contemporary: Artists from the Horn of Africa and Diaspora, CFHILL, Stockholm, Sweden.

2020 *Nach wind greifen*, Kreuzkirche, Nürtinger, Germany.
Was Meinen Sie, Frau Hoffman?, Galerie ABTART, Stuttgart, Germany.
Übersehe Mich Nicht, Galerie Schrade, Schloss Mochental, Germany.

2019 *Ch Halte Dich Esthalten*, Schacher – Raum für Kunst, Stuttgart, Germany.
Von Denen Die Auszogen, State Galerie Villa, Streccius, Landau, Germany.
Atemzug, Galerie Tobias Schrade, Ulm, Germany.
No Country for Young Men, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2018 *Oltre/Beyond*, Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.
No Country for Young Men, Galerieverein Leonberg, Leonberg

2017 *Auszeit*, Galerieverein Wendlingen, Wendlingen, Germany.
Free Fall, Galerie Evelyn Drewes, Hamburg, Germany.

2016 *Fremdkörper*, Schacher – Raum für Kunst, Stuttgart, Germany.
Ethiopia Today, Kunstation Kleinassen, Hofbieber-Kleinassen, Germany.

2015 *Free Fall*, Galerie Evelyn Drewes, Hamburg, Germany.
Body and Soul, Sympra GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany.
Untitled, Galerie K, K In, Germany.