



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *ADDIS CALLING* 9 JANUARY - 12 FEBRUARY 2016

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – December 28, 2015 - Addis Fine Art announces the official launch of its new gallery space with the inaugural exhibition *Addis Calling*. *Addis Calling* celebrates the breadth and depth of artistic practice in Ethiopia through the presentation of works by seven contemporary artists who live and work in the capital. The exhibition, a vibrant mix of painting, photography and mixed media, reflects the dynamic artistic activity in Addis Ababa today. The participating artists are, Dawit Abebe, Workneh Bezu, Tamrat Gezahegne, Yosef Lule, Leikun Nahusenay, Emanuel Tegene, and Michael Tsegaye.

Addis Calling presents four painters; **Dawit Abebe's** (b. 1978, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) new series *Rank and Providence*, explores the relationship between society and those in positions of authority. His work is concerned with the visible imbalances of power in modern life. **Yosef Lule** (b. 1977, Assela, Ethiopia) explores the impact of urbanization on the traditions, religions, and lifestyles in his home city of Addis Ababa. **Tamrat Gezahegne** (b. 1977, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) studied under the esteemed Ethiopian artist Mezgebu Tesema and is known for the bold use of colour and the repetition of motifs that define his compositions. Gezahegne's practice also extends to installation and performance art. **Emanuel Tegene** (b. 1985, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) is regarded as an emerging talent. He started his career as a cartoonist at *Saloon Ethiopia*. Tegene's practice explores changing cultural dynamics in local society, deeply rooted in his own personal encounters.

Mixed media artist **Workneh Bezu** (b. 1978, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) draws inspiration for many of his compositions from his own dreams. Figures in Bezu's paintings are often immersed in a supernatural world. Bezu's practice extends to animation film, puppet making and sculpture.

Experimental works in fine art photography complete the group show. **Leikun Nahusenay's** (b.1982 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) recognition as a fine art photographer is steadily growing. Using double exposure photography, Nahusenay documents the daily life and cultural practices in Jijiga, the capital of the Somali region of Ethiopia.

Fine art photographer **Michael Tsegaye** (b. 1975, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) has an attentive voice in recording and documenting his surroundings. Series such as 'Future Memories' display the artist's grasp of change and shifting topography of the city. Tsegaye's work has been featured in publications such as *Snap Judgments: New Directions in African Photography, 2007* and *The New York Times*.

Founded by Mesai Haileleul and Rakeb Sile, the Addis Fine Art gallery addresses the limited number of international art enterprises in Ethiopia, as the country experiences resurgence in artistic expression and appreciation. The partners bring a high level of expertise to this establishment. With over 20 years of local and international experience between them, the new gallery is well positioned to promote the work of an impressive roster of artists both in Ethiopia and abroad. Located in the heart of Addis Ababa, Addis Fine Art will be a hub for an innovative arts programming, including: exhibitions, lectures, and events showcasing modern and contemporary artists from Ethiopia and the Diaspora.

Visitor information

3rd Floor, Wold Fikir Building
(Next to Golden Tulip Hotel)
Bole Medhane Alem
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 913 426553

Gallery Hours

Tuesday - Thursday 11am - 6pm
Friday - Saturday 10am - 7pm
Admission: Free
www.addisfineart.com

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Notes for Editors

Addis Fine Art represents emerging and established international artists, with particular focus on modern and contemporary art from Ethiopia and its diaspora. Since its inception in 2013, Addis Fine Art has provided curatorial and advisory services related to Ethiopian modern and contemporary art to international galleries and private collectors.

Addis Fine Art now opens a new gallery space in the heart of Addis Ababa, to launch an innovative programme of exhibitions, talks and events, showcasing a diverse set of modern and contemporary artists from Ethiopia and the diaspora. By simultaneously engaging with Ethiopian artists and the global art market, Addis Fine Art strives to promote Ethiopian art on a global stage.

Founders:

MESAI HAILELEUL - With over 20 years of experience in dealing, curating and exhibiting Ethiopian art, Mesai has continuously aimed to create a presence for Ethiopian artists in international spaces. Based in Addis Ababa, Mesai is part of the

rapid change happening in the Ethiopian capital and has invaluable insight into the evolving cultural climate of Ethiopia.

RAKEB SILE - With over 10 years experience in business consulting and project management, Rakeb brings a wealth of commercial experience to Addis Fine Art. As an indigene of Ethiopia and a collector of Ethiopian art, she is well versed with the context in which Ethiopian artists are cultural producers, transforming the mundane into nuanced and expressive works of art.

For more information or for selected artwork images, please contact Rakeb Sile at hello@addisfineart.com