

ADDIS GEZEHAGN

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair

4-7 October 2018
Somerset House, Strand, London



Addis Gezehagn, Floating City XI, 2018 Acrylic on canvas, 146 x 222 cm

Addis Fine Art is proud to present a solo exhibition by Addis Gezehagn at the 2018 edition of 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, taking place between 4 - 7 October 2018 at Somerset House, London.

Addis Fine Art will present Gezehagn's "*Floating Cities*" series in which he depicts dreamlike deconstructed and layered renderings of the urban landscapes rising above the ground. These compositions made by layering magazine cut outs with acrylic paint, blend the boundaries of fantasy and reality of urban life, blurring the lines between the past, present and future. Flattened and reductive, Gezehagn's works imagine cityscapes as towers, or patchworks of colourful doors and gates, the architectural structures seeming to signify a natural, organic network of living spaces. The rootless and ephemeral nature of these layered towers call into question the lives of the inhabitants. These works are a documentation of the increasingly changing landscape of

Addis Ababa and the communities that reside in neighbourhoods such as Kasanchis, Piassa and Arat Kilo. The distinct rusted corrugated iron roofs of the homes in these communities can be seen in some of his paintings offering the impression of an aerial perspective. Yet, this is within an abstracted context, as the observer is confronted with nonsensical blackened doorways placed on what are perceived to be the rooftops of these homes.

By examining the personal and public spaces, these works archive walls and towers destined to crumble, tracing a pattern of classism and social injustice. Gezehagn's works urge us to think beyond homes as functional entities and offer commentary on the socio-economic context of urban life.

Addis Gezehagn (b.1978) lives and works in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He graduated from the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design with a Diploma and BFA in 2011. He has long been a strong artistic presence in Addis Ababa, and is renowned for his abstracted portrayals of the multifaceted characteristics of the city's architectural structures. His first international showing was in 2017 at 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair in London which was received with great acclaim. Since then, he has gone from strength to strength, garnering more international interest after having his first sold out solo show at Addis Fine Art's main gallery in Addis Ababa in 2018.

Addis Fine Art

Addis Fine Art is a contemporary art gallery specialising in art from Ethiopia and its diaspora. Founded by Mesai Haileleul and Rakeb Sile in 2013, with the aim of creating a platform to elevate artistic practices from the region, Addis Fine Art is the first international gallery based in Ethiopia. Together, Haileleul and Sile are positioning Addis Fine Art as a critical platform in the region with a growing and impressive roster of artists. In January 2016, Addis Fine Art opened its main gallery space in the heart of Addis Ababa, which is the site of an innovative programme of exhibitions, talks and events. In October 2016, a sister site – the AFA Project Space – was opened in London to provide an additional international platform to the gallery's programme.

Press Contacts:

Judith Van Helden, Gallery Manager: Judith@addisfineart.com

Rakeb Sile, Gallery Director: raku@addisfineart.com

Addis Fine Art Gallery, 3rd Floor, Red Building Behind Mafi City Mall, Bole Medhane Alem, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Opening times: *Tuesday - Saturday, 10AM - 6PM* Tel: +251 913 426 553

Addis Fine art Project Space, Tafeta, 47-50 Margaret Street London, W1W 8SB, UK

Opening times: *By appointment only* Tel: +44 7931 557 544

Website: www.addisfineart.com // Instagram: @addisfineart

ADDIS GEZEHAGN

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair

4-7 October 2018

Somerset House, Strand, London

IMAGE DOWNLOAD LINK: <https://we.tl/t-ynbk3ZbA4U>



Addis Gezehagn
Floating City XI, 2018
Acrylic and paper on canvas
146 x 222 cm
Courtesy of Addis Fine Art



Addis Gezehagn
Floating City XII, 2018
Acrylic and paper on canvas
146 x 222 cm
Courtesy of Addis Fine Art



Addis Gezehagn
Floating Tower III, 2018
Acrylic and Paper on Canvas
170 x 140 cm
Courtesy of Addis Fine Art



Addis Gezehagn
Floating Tower IV, 2018
Acrylic and Paper on Canvas
162 x 130 cm
Courtesy of Addis Fine Art



Addis Gezehagn
Floating Tower V, 2018
Acrylic and Paper on Canvas
162 x 130 cm
Courtesy of Addis Fine Art