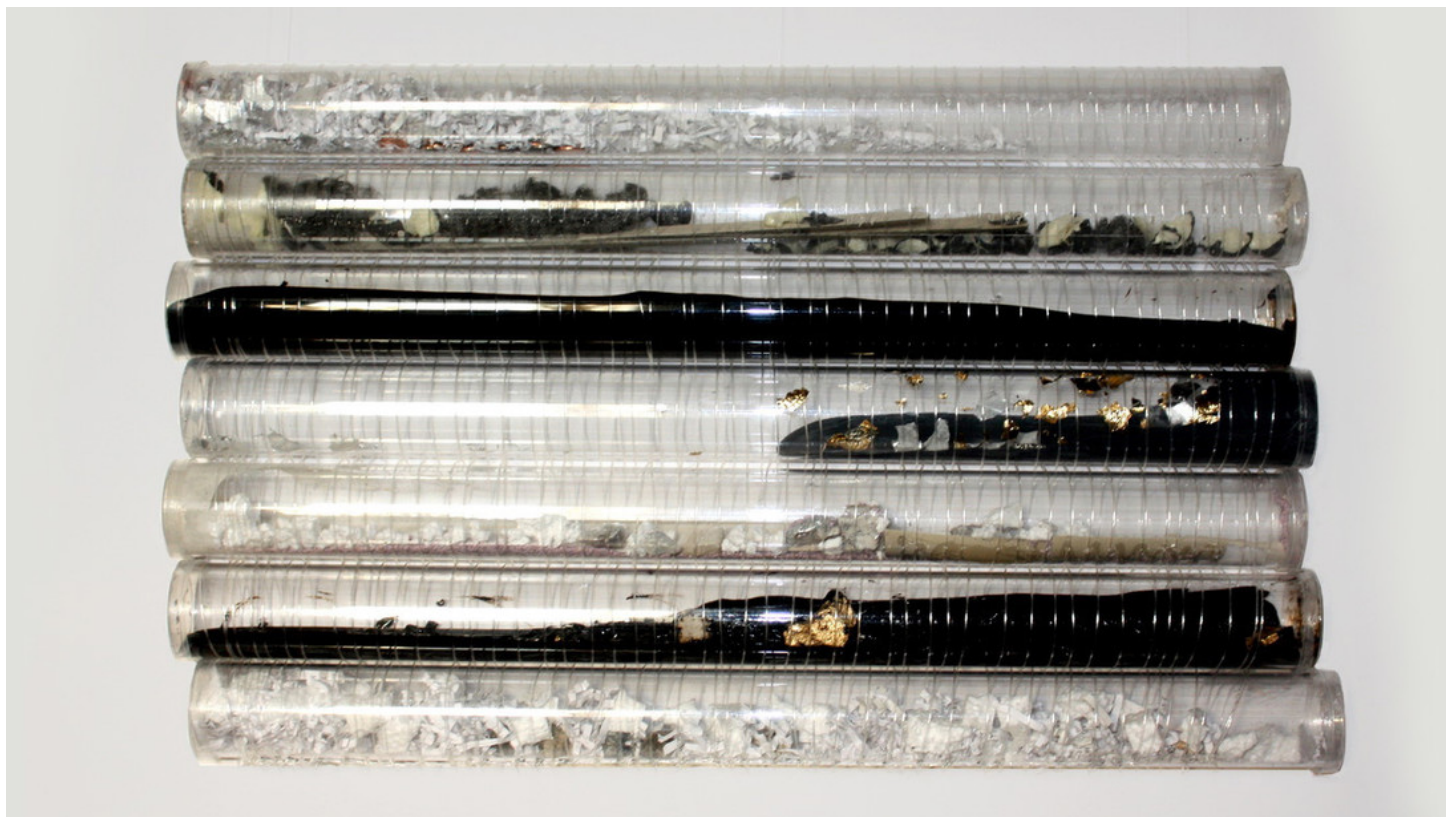


# Without Qualities

1 — 31 May 2018 at the Private View New York in New York, United States

9 MAY 2018



Luam Melake, Without Qualities 2018 Acrylic tube, plastic thread, Tar, rubber, cement, paper, Imitation gold and silver leaf. Rocks, foam, steel, wool, metal chain, pennies, 37,5 x 63,5 cm. Courtesy of the Artist and Addis Fine Art

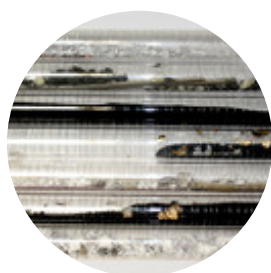
Addis Fine Art and Private View New York (a new private loft showroom in Soho) are pleased to announce the inaugural exhibition of Private View, New York, "Without Qualities" featuring the works of AFA artists Tariku Shiferaw and Luam Melake, opening Tuesday May 1, 2018, from 6 to 8 pm. Private View is located at 66 Crosby Street, #5F, in the heart of Soho, NYC. Set in an old-school loft, it is a multi-discipline outpost for exhibitions, lectures, showcases, and special projects. Private View provides a new type of program platform that encourages social engagement and experimentation within contemporary art and tangential practices by partnering with an international community of artists, galleries, institutions and residencies.

This collaborative project brings together a dual presentation of two exciting Ethiopian-American artists, Tariku Shiferaw and Luam Melake - represented by Addis Fine Art - a pioneering gallery from Ethiopia. Now working in Brooklyn, the artists fuse the cultural influences of their backgrounds and their lives in New York. Their diasporic origins are similar, although their creative artistic approaches and processes

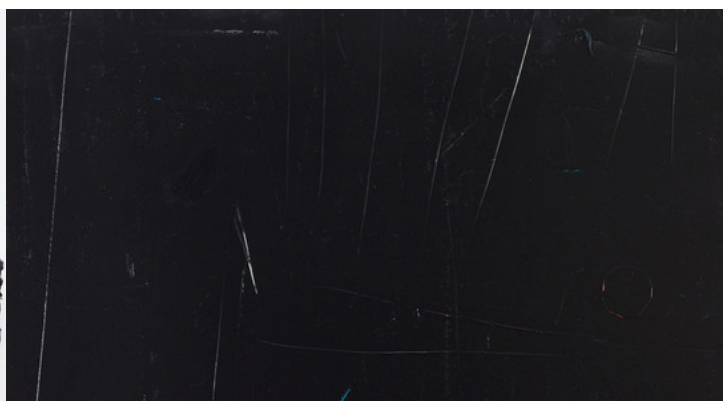
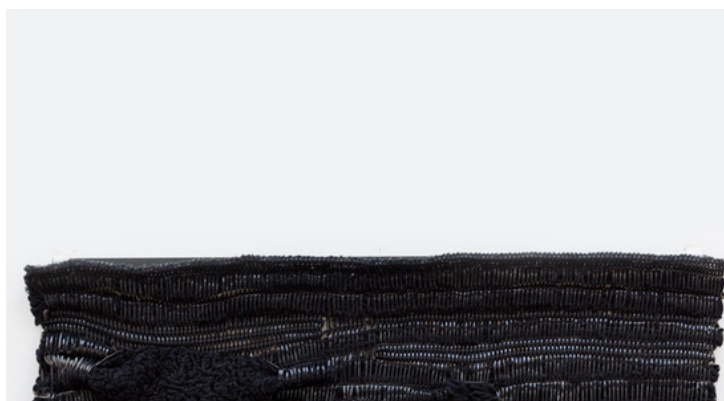
are quite distinct. Despite the different approaches, both artists create abstract compositions using carefully selected multi-layered materials that represent the interconnectivity of art and industry. Their work equally portrays intangible, abstract narratives that evoke the viewer's emotions and memory.

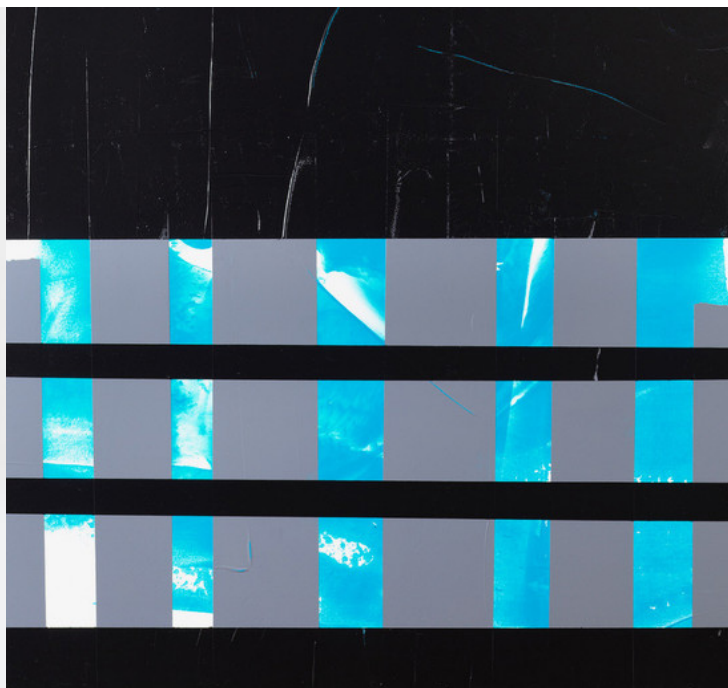
**Tariku Shiferaw** (b. 1983, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) explores painting and societal structures through mark-making. Taking the names of songs from Hip-Hop, R&B, Jazz, Blues, and Reggae music, Shiferaw makes paintings that embody the experiences and struggles expressed through music by Black artists and composers. Shiferaw often explores a spectrum of topics ranging from the notion of black bodies in a white social construct to the popular idioms of romance, sex and daily life. Appropriating song titles as points of reference for his paintings, the works automatically inherit musical references, identities and histories, portrayed throughout the work. Every song used to title his paintings relays a story that refers to a specific reality; they also become, in their own way, an addition to the physical mark-making the paintings are composed of. Thus, Shiferaw utilizes repetitive patterns both aesthetically and conceptually. Subtle, yet intricate, the works inhabit a distinct space and powerful authority, acting as placeholders for Black bodies; they establish, quite literally, a way of being "seen" in a society that often prefers overlooking the Other. His works are in some way as minimal and subtle as Ad Reinhardt's black paintings, whose large works, made with slight variations in chromatic gradients of black paint, are echoed in Shiferaw's art.

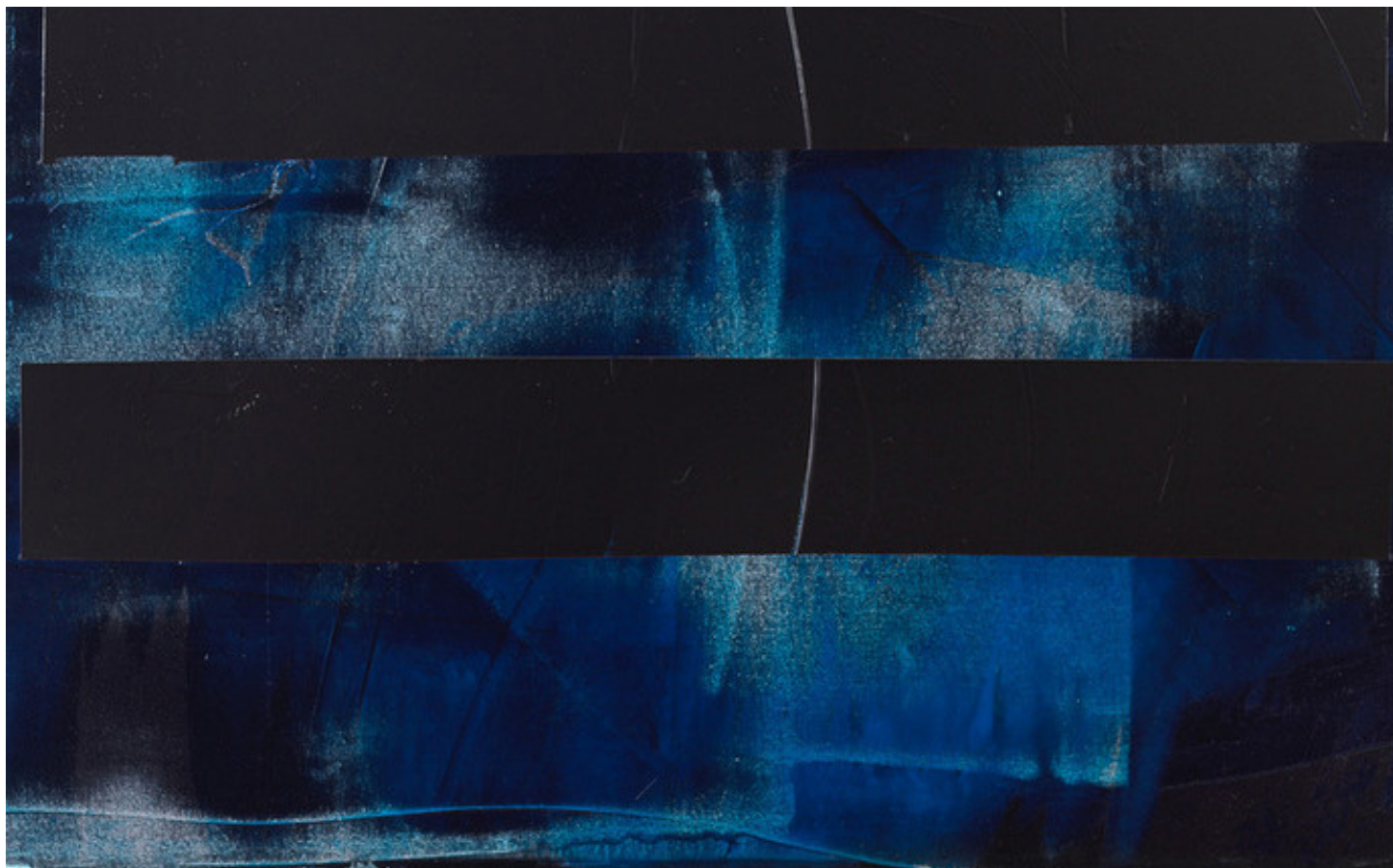
**Luam Melake** (b. 1986, San Diego, California) has a background in architecture and uses complex structures to evoke emotive responses from her audience - a delicate combination of counterintuitive, unorthodox designs, constructed with surrealist materials. These techniques are deployed throughout her textile and furniture designs. Melake's choice of materials is an intrinsic part of her art, as she views this part of the process as the main communicative aspect of her process and output. Melake's references to Ethiopia's rich textile and craftwork history are also decipherable in her textile pieces. Her multi-colored tapestry works are abstracted and depart from their traditional grid, with the principle aim of liberating them from contingents of form.

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## [Private View New York](#)







1. Luam Melake, Black 2017, Vinyl, Persian lamb fur, cotton drawstring cord, asphalt, 71 x 80 cm. Courtesy of the Artist and Addis Fine Art
2. Tariku Shiferaw, War/No More Trouble (Bob Marley) 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 153 x 122 cm. Courtesy of the Artist and Addis Fine Art
3. Tariku Shiferaw, Grinding All My Life (Nipsey Hussle) 2018, Acrylic on canvas, 153 x 122 cm. Courtesy of the Artist and Addis Fine Art

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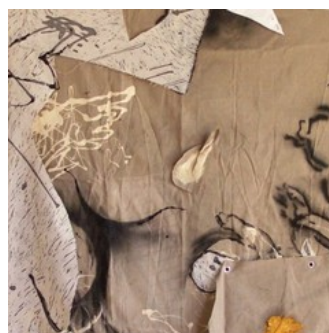
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