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"Without Qualities" at Private View, New York

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | JULY 02, 2018



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"Without Qualities," 2018, by Luam Melake (1986, San Diego), 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, Private View New York
(Courtesy: Addis Fine Art and Private View)

Addis Fine Art, Addis Ababa, and Private View, New York (a new private loft showroom in SoHo), are showcasing an exhibition at Private View, New York, titled "Without Qualities" featuring the works of AFA artists Tariku Shiferaw and Luam Melake.

About the exhibition, the gallery says, "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 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.

"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," adds the gallery.

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.

According to the gallery, Luam Melake has a background in architecture and uses complex structures to evoke emotive responses from her viewers — a delicate combination of counterintuitive, unorthodox designs, constructed with surrealist materials.

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.

"Without Qualities" is on view through July 14, 2018 at Private View, 66 Crosby Street, #5F, Soho, NYC, USA.

For details, visit: <https://addisfineart.com/>

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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Founder: [Louise Blouin](http://www.blouinartinfo.com/artists/louise-blouin--2953510) (<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/artists/louise-blouin--2953510>)

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