



Frieze London 2021
Feature

Six of the best experimental works by emerging artists at Frieze London

We take a tour around the Focus section of the art fair

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Edgar Calel's, *The Echo of an Ancient Form of Knowledge* (2021) in Frieze London's Focus section
Photo: David Owens

Focus is the section of Frieze London dedicated to younger, more fringe galleries. With a more open structure than the main fair, it tends to privilege media that are less common in the more blue-chip presentations, such as film and video. There is much experimental work among the 35 exhibitors, but the abundance of painting elsewhere in the fair carries through here too. Frieze London's artistic director Eva Langret's commitment to bringing new voices to the fair has borne fruit in this section: 13 of the galleries are new to Frieze, including three in this selection of highlights: Addis Fine Art, Copperfield and Edel Assanti.

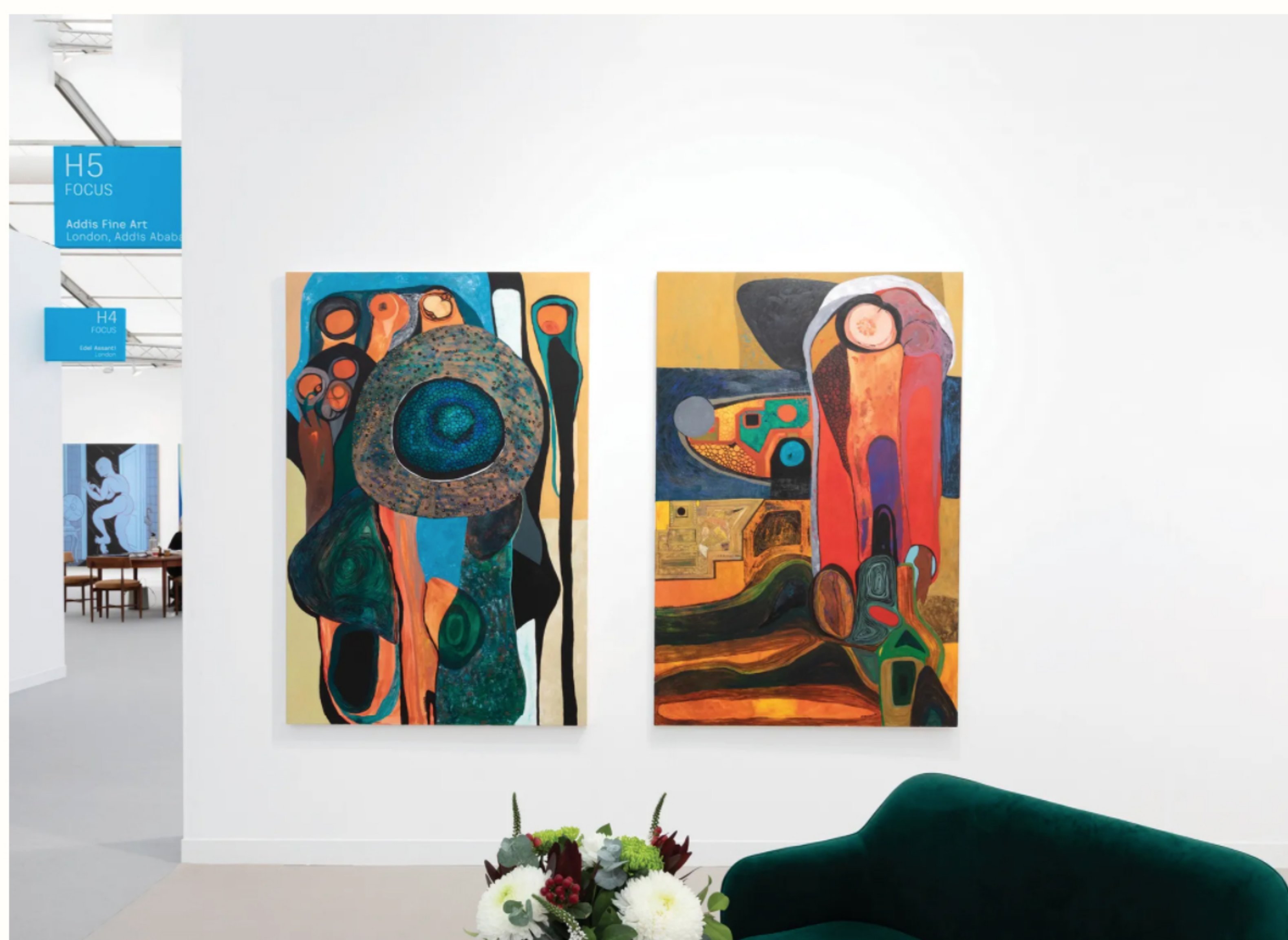


Photo: David Owens

Merikokeb Berhanu, Addis Fine Art

Berhanu's paintings are difficult to pin down. Born in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia but now based in Maryland, she evokes the rupture of her emigration to the US in compositions that hint at figurative presences, still-lives and landscapes but never resolve into a clear singular narrative. There is a sense of the micro meeting the macro, with cellular forms abutting those resembling geologic maps. Occasional clear references to bodies and animals—feet, cows and horses—are set amid abstract forms. It is this rich ambiguity, an enigmatic dreaminess, that makes Berhanu's work so absorbing.

