



# YOHANNES TESFAYE GURMESSA

10834 Marietta Avenue Culver City, CA 90232 323.301.2866 [www.yohannesart.com](http://www.yohannesart.com)

## EDUCATION

- 1995–1997 Addis Ababa University Fine Art School; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Certificate
- 1997–2001 Addis Ababa University Fine Art School; Addis Ababa; Diploma
- 2001–2002 Surikov Art Institute; Moscow, Russia

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 African American Museum, Los Angeles
- 2007 Ambient Collection, Beverly Hills
- 2005 *Yohannes Tesfaye: Two- and Three-Dimensional Paintings*, Addis Art Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2004 Wit Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2004 Addis Ababa University School of Fine Art and Design, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2004 Alliance Ethio-Française, Addis Ababa
- 2004 Addis Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa
- 2003 Alliance Ethio-Française, Addis Ababa
- 2002 Asni Gallery of Contemporary Ethiopian Art, Addis Ababa
- 2001 Alliance Ethio-Française, Addis Ababa
- 2000 Addis Ababa University

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2004 Workshop instructor, free art experiment, Addis Ababa
- 2000 Holy Trinity Cathedral, restoration of wall frescoes, Addis Ababa
- 2000 Illustrations for children's book, Macmillan

## BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1978. I didn't begin to draw until I was about 12, and I never stopped. Although my parents may have had other aspirations for me, once they saw my commitment to making art and the quality of my work, they supported me unequivocally. In 1997, I passed my entrance exams for the Addis Ababa University of Fine Arts and Design. From the beginning, I resisted a purely figurative approach and was drawn to non-representational subjects. While I find inspiration in the man-made and natural world, I try to create without preconception, often using unusual materials, and leaving rectilinear, flat surfaces behind.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My earliest inspirations were spiders' webs and wall posters, which also have an ephemeral quality. Basically, I try to be completely honest when I am painting. I want to communicate my humanity and to touch the humanity of those who see the paintings. I try to make art that resonates with universal truths and experiences.