

Ficre Ghebreyesus

Born 1962 in Asmara, Eritrea

Died 2012 in New Haven, Connecticut

MFA, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, Connecticut, 2002

BA, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut, 1987

Ficre Ghebreyesus populated his works with intricate, highly personal experiences as a citizen of the world. Born in Eritrea during their War of Independence (1961–1991), he left as a teenaged refugee to Sudan, Italy, and Germany. The artist finally settled in the United States where he received an MFA from the Yale School of Art, and was awarded the Carol Schlossberg Prize for Excellence in Painting at graduation. Ghebreyesus continued his lifelong activism for Eritrean independence alongside studying painting, printmaking, several languages, and working as the executive chef and co-owner of New Haven's Caffé Adulis. Operating fluidly between abstraction and figuration, Ghebreyesus's matte acrylic and oil paintings suggest the non-linear form of dreams, memories, and storytelling. His rebuke of borders and divisions seem to be distilled from his own optimistic embrace of an identity and home perpetually in flux.

While Ghebreyesus turned down most opportunities to show during his short lifetime, recent solo institutional exhibitions of his work include *Ficre Ghebreyesus: City with a River Running Through* at the Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, California and *POLYCHROMASIA: Selected Paintings by Ficre Ghebreyesus* at Artspace, New Haven, Connecticut. Galerie Lelong & Co. began representing the Estate in 2019 and held the solo exhibition *Ficre Ghebreyesus: Gate to the Blue* in 2020. Ghebreyesus's work is included in *Recent Acquisitions* at the Yale University of Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut (February 25–June 26, 2022) and has previously been shown in museum collection exhibitions at the Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland and Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, Florida. His work has also been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Illinois and California African American Museum, Los Angeles, California. In addition to the above museum collections, works by Ghebreyesus are found in the collections of Glenstone Museum, Potomac, Maryland; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York, and the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Writer and poet Elizabeth Alexander's memoir, *The Light of the World* (2015), chronicles her husband Ghebreyesus's life and work.

Solo shows (selection)

2023

I Believe We Are Lost, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, United States

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2022

Map / Quilt, Galerie Lelong & Co., Matignon, Paris, France

2020

Ficre Ghebreyesus: Gate to the Blue, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, United States

2018

Ficre Ghebreyesus: City with a River Running Through, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, United States

2013

Ficre Ghebreyesus: Polychromasia, Artspace, New Haven, United States

1997

Cannon Office Building, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC, United States

1995

Day Life Savings Time, Artspace, New Haven, United States

Photographs, Paintings, Prints, Drawings, Africa World Press, Trenton, United States

Group shows (selection)

2022

Recent Acquisitions, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, United States

2021

Now Is The Time: Recent Acquisitions to the Contemporary Collection, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, United States

Rhe: everything flows, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, United States

2020

Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, United States

The Place as Metaphor, Collection Conversations, The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, United States

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2019

Plumb Line: Charles White and the Contemporary, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, United States

2006

City-wide Open Studios, New Haven, United States

2002

Thesis Show, Yale School of Art, New Haven, United States

2001

First-Year Painting Exhibition, Yale School of Art, New Haven, United States

1999

Harvard University School of Education Conference on Eritrea and Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, United States

1992

Black History Month, Ikenga Gallery, New Haven, United States

1991

Time and Place, Cinque Gallery, New York, United States

Biennials (selection)

2022

The Milk of Dreams, La Biennale di Venezia 2022, Venice, Italy

Public collections (selection)

Glenstone Museum, Potomac, United States

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, United States

The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, United States

The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, United States

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University, Cambridge,
United States

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, United States

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, United States