

Canvas Paper and Stone Gallery

2611 Frederick Douglass Blvd., Studio 2N, Harlem 10030

Averlyn Archer ~ 212.694.1747 ~ info@canvaspaperandstone.com ~ Gallery Hours: Tuesday- Saturday 12- 6PM, and by Appointment



Evacuation by Mekbib Gebertsadik
60" x 36" | oil on canvas



Open Market #1 by Meseret Desta
48" x 60" | oil on canvas

A Celebration of Modern Ethiopian Art

(August 8, 2008- New York) Canvas Paper and Stone Gallery is pleased to feature Ezra Wube, Meseret Desta, Mekbib Gebertsadik, Tesfaye Tessema and Helina Metaferia, in “Celebrating Abyssinia to Harlem and Back,” a modern art group show celebrating the special relationship between Ethiopia and Harlem. The Opening Reception will be held on Friday, September 5, from 6 until 9 PM. The exhibition will run from September 3 through September 27, 2008 in the Gallery at 2611 Frederick Douglass Blvd., Studio 2N in Harlem, New York 10030. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from Noon until six and by appointment.

The relationship between Ethiopians and Harlemites began in 1808 when Ethiopian merchants and African Americans co-founded the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, and has continued to the present, as Harlem is the home to thousands of Ethiopians. African American residents of Harlem have expressed support during Ethiopian struggle for independence and opposition to fascist tyranny. Contemporary Ethiopian art reflects the history of the nation, using bold colors, rich strokes, rhythmic symbols and patterns to express subjects ranging from the homeland and culture to prominent societal struggles.

Ezra Wube, born and raised in Ethiopia, creates work inspired by Ethiopian folk tales, which make social, political and spiritual commentary and reflect on the many diverse and ancient cultures of Ethiopia.

International, award- winning artists **Meseret Desta** and **Mekbib Gebertsadik** find inspiration in the cultural richness of their native homeland, Ethiopia. Meseret focuses on the hardship of women through portraiture in juxtaposition to images of beautifully colored open markets of Ethiopia. Mekbib describes his work as “contemporary African paintings reflecting the core of the African life and culture.”

Tesfaye Tessema is a master painter, with expertise in prints and murals, connected by the commonality of spirituality. Tesfaye finds inspiration in neighborhood of Harlem, as well as his Ethiopian background.

Helina Metaferia is a visual, healing and community artist, whose art can be found in museums, galleries, murals, and children's books. Her art blends figures and faces with colorful subliminal backgrounds. Helina is most inspired by the human experience as well as her spiritual yoga path.

About the Gallery

Canvas Paper and Stone Gallery continues to lead the way in Harlem's cultural arts renaissance by producing an ever-changing array of imaginative and thought-provoking contemporary exhibits by established and emerging artists. Past exhibits include work by TAFE, Deborah Willis, Ray Llanos, Eric Henderson, Diane Waller, Dianne Smith, Mary Heller, Francks Deceus, Charly Palmer and Aleathia Brown. Viewers are welcome to access additional information and a copy of this press release on canvaspaperandstone.com.

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