

# Elias Sime

b. 1968 in Addis Ababa (ET)

Lives and works in Addis Ababa (ET)

## EDUCATION

1990 Graphic Art from Addis Ababa University School of Fine Art and Design, Addis Ababa (ET)

## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

2020 Hugo Boss Prize (US)

2019 African Art Award, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art (US)

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *THROUGH THE WINDOW* - በመስከቱ ውስጥ, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (AE)

*Elias Sime: Echo የገደል ማሚቶ*, Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf (DE)

2024 *Elias Sime: Dichotomy* ፊት እና ጃርባ, Spazio Tana, Castello, Venice (IT)

*Elias Sime: Eregata* አርጋታ, Hastings Contemporary (UK)

2023 *Elias Sime: Eregata* አርጋታ, Arnolfini, Bristol (UK)

*TIGHTROPE: አረንጓዴ ነው (IT IS GREEN)*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

*TIGHTROPE: BEHIND THE PROCESSOR*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL)

2022 *Elias Sime: Selected Early Works*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

2021 *Tightrope*, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (CA)

*TIGHTROPE: ECHO!?*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

2020 *Tightrope*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO (US)

*Concave Triangles*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL)

*Currents 118: Elias Sime*, Saint Louis Art Museum, St Louis, MO (US)

*Tightrope*, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH (US)

2019 *Tightrope*, Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY (US)

*NOISELESS*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

*Elias Sime*, ZOMA Museum, Addis Ababa (ET)

2018 *Tightrope*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL)

2017 *Twisted & Hidden*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

2015 *Elias Sime*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

2013 *Tightrope*, British Council, Goethe-Institute, Italian Cultural Institute and Alliance Ethio-Française, Adias Ababa (ET)

2012 *Eye of the Needle, Eye of the Heart*, North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND (US)

2011 *Ants and Ceramicists*, British Council, Goethe-Institute, Italian Cultural Institute and Alliance Ethio-Française, Addis Ababa, (ET)

*Tot*, DUVE, Berlin (DE)

2010 *Oedipus-Rex Opera*, Sydney Opera House, Sydney (AU)

2009 *Oedipus-Rex Opera*, Walt Disney concert hall, Los Angeles, CA (US)

*Eye of the Needle, Eye of the Heart*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA (US)

2008 *What is Love?*, Alliance Ethio-française, Adias Ababa, (ET)

2006 *Metamorphosis*, Public Mosaic sponsored by European Union & ZOMA Contemporary Art Center, Addis Ababa (ET)

*GOTA Tarat-Tarat*, Alliance Ethio-française, Addis Ababa (ET)

2004 *Min Neber*, Italian Cultural Institute, Addis Ababa (ET)

2002 *Retrospect part 1 part of Giziawi #1*, in Jara Park, Addis Ababa (ET)

1999 Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa (ET)

1998 Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa (ET)

1996 Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa (ET)

1995 *Organization of African Unity*, Addis Ababa (ET)

1993 Alliance Ethio-française, Addis Ababa (ET)

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Crosscurrents*, Baltimore Museum of Art, MD (US)

2024 *Keeping Time*, curated by Ekow Eshun and Karon Hepburn, Gallery 1957, Accra (GH)

2023 *Ethiopia at the Crossroads*, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD (US)

*To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions*, El Espacio 23, Miami, FL (US)

*Plastic World*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main (DE)

*Together*, Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, AR (US)

*I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen*, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas (US)

*The Changing Landscape*, Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle (NL)

2022 *On the Nature Of Things*, organized in collaboration with Alex Glauber, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York (NY)

*Il Latte Dei Sogni*, 59th Biennale di Venezia, Venice (IT)

*Where Cloudy Waters Collide...*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London (UK)

2021 *Butterflies Frolicking on the Mud: Engendering Sensible Capital*, Thailand Biennale, Korat (TH)

Portals, Hellenic Parliament + NEON, Former Public Tobacco Factory, Athens (GR)

2021 *Inaspettatamente*, Cloud Seven, Brussels (BE)  
*Inaugural exhibition*, GRIMM, New York, NY (US)

2020 *15th Anniversary Exhibition Where We Now Stand – In Order to Map the Future*, 21st Century of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa (JP)

*Second Careers: Two Tributaries in African Art*, curated by Ugochukwu- Smooth Nzewi, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH (US)

*Allied with Power: African and Africa Diaspora art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL (US)

*Matereality – a testament to the challenge of tradition*, curated by Andrea Lewis, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town (ZA)

2019 *Borders*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

2018 *I Was Raised on the Internet*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (US)

*Grids*, James Cohan, New York, NY (US)

*Beachcombers*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL)

2017 *Abstract Minded: Works by Six Contemporary African Artists*, N'Namidi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI (US)

*Innovative Approaches, Honored Traditions: the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art at Five Years, Highlights from the Permanent Collection*, the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, Clinton, NY (US)

2016 *The Distance of a Day: New in Contemporary Art*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem (IL)

2010 *Stitches*, The Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA (US)

2009 *Täärät-Täärät*, Haunch of Venison, London (UK)

2008 *The Essential Art of African Textiles: Design Without End*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (US)

*Flow*, Studio Museum Harlem, New York, NY (US)

2006 *Green Flame*, Peter Sellars's New Crowned Hope Festival, Vienna (AT)

*GOETHE INSTITUT*, - Addis Wubet & Zoma Contemporary Art Center, Addis Ababa (ET)

2005 *Hidden Talent*, European Union & Zoma Contemporary Art Center, Addis Ababa (ET)

*Addis Abeba Zare*, Addis Ababa University Fine Art and Design School, Addis Ababa (ET)

2004 Dak'Art Biennale 2004, 6th International Contemporary African Art, Dakar (SN)

2003 *Min Neber*, Italian Cultural Institute, Addis Ababa (ET)

2002 *Giziawi #1*, Meskel Square, Addis Ababa (ET)

2000 Italian Cultural Institute, Addis Ababa (ET)

1999 Alliance Ethio-française, Addis Ababa (ET)

1997 Goshu Gallery, Addis Ababa (ET)

Joint Exhibition of Dutch-Ethiopian Artists in Holland and in Addis Ababa, Fine Arts School, Addis Ababa (ET)

1995 National Museum, Addis Ababa (ET)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2024 *Where is Africa*, Vol 1. Written by Anita N. Bateman and Emanuel Admassu. Published by the Center for Art, Research and Alliances (CARA), 2024.

2022 *Full House: Open Space, Two Shows, 307 Artists, and 400 Pieces*. Contributions by Nicolas Bourriaud, Frédéric de Goldschmidt, Christine Jamart, Agata Jastrzabek, Gregory Lang, Donatienne de Séjournet and Dirk Snauwaert. Yale University Press, 2022.

*African Art Now: 50 Pioneers Defining African Art for the Twenty First Century*. Text by Osei Bonsu, with forerword by Maro Itoje. Published with Tate UK, 2022.

*Biennale Arte 2022: The Milk of Dreams*. Edited by Cecilia Alemani. Published by La Biennale di Venezia/Silvana Editoriale.

2020 *Elias Sime: Tightrope*. Text by Tracy L. Adler, with contributions from Meskerem Assegued, Karen Milbourne, and Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi. Prestel Publishing, 2020.

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art,  
Kanazawa (JP)

The Ahmanson Foundation, Los Angeles, CA (US)

The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Cornell  
Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Orlando, FL (US)

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts Foundation  
Collection, Little Rock, AR (US)

Carl and Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation, Santa Fe,  
NM (US)

Chrysler Museum of Arts, Norfolk, VA (US)

Cleveland Clinic Art Collection, Cleveland, OH (US)

Denning House Art Collection, Stanford University,  
Stanford, CA (US)

Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA (US)

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI (US)

## THE EKARD COLLECTION

Fondation H, Antananarivo (MG)

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida,  
Gainesville, FL (US)

Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover,  
NH (US)

Israel Museum, Jerusalem (IL)

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City,  
MO (US)

Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf (DE)

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (US)

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI  
(US)

New Orleans Museum of Art, LA (US)

Newark Museum, Newark, NJ (US)

North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC (US)

North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND (US)

Norval Foundation, Cape Town (ZA)

Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa, CA (US)

Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL (US)

The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C. (US)

Pizzuti Collection at the Columbus Museum of Art,  
Columbus, OH (US)

Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ  
(US)

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (CA)

Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, Hamilton  
College, Clinton, NY (US)

Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO (US)

Toledo Museum of Art, OH (US)

Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, UT (US)

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA (US)

