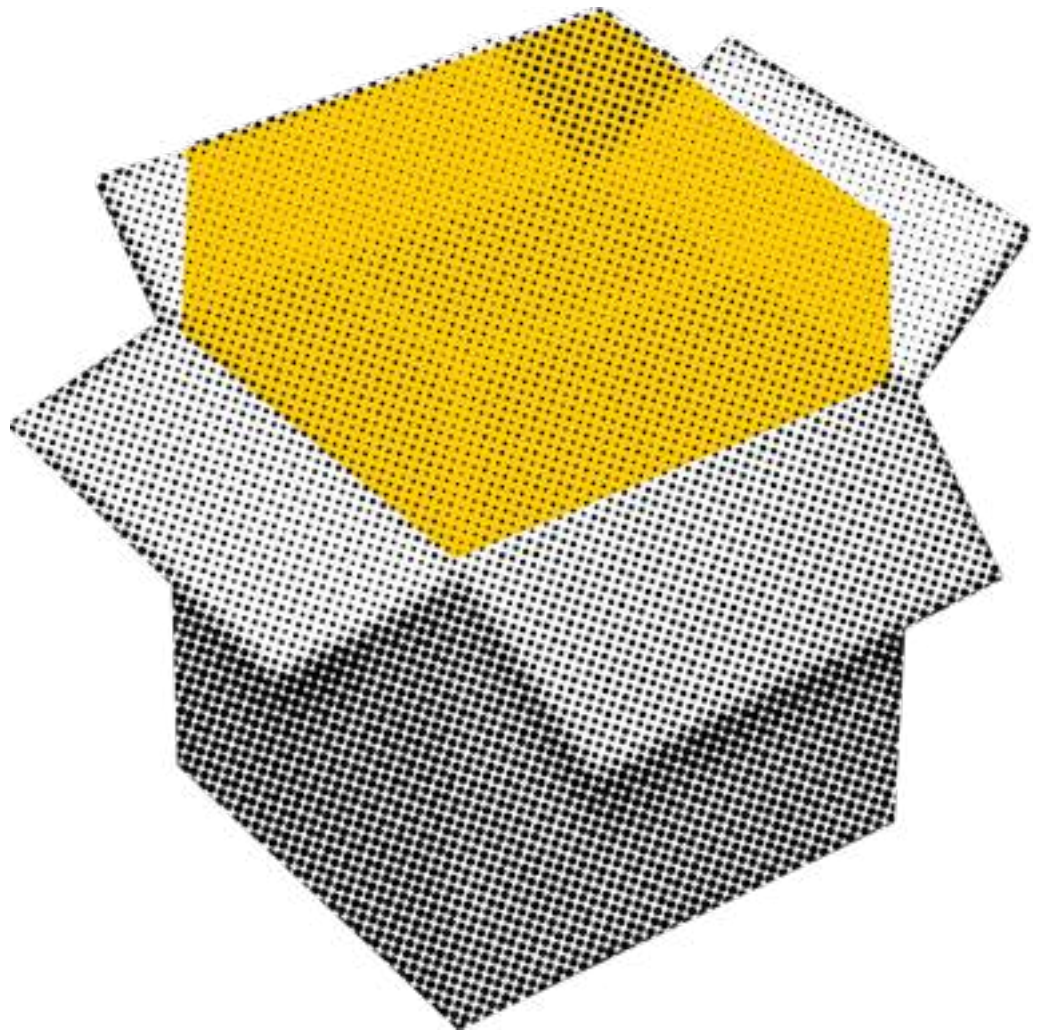


IMPETUS. *Opening*



ATELIER fine art gallery



Impetus / noun

the force or energy with which a body moves

the force that makes something happen or happen more quickly

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin, ‘assault, force,’ from *impetere* ‘assail,’ from *in-* ‘toward’ + *petere* ‘seek.’



The much anticipated ATELIER opening ceremony on Friday December 10, 2010 featuring the world premiere of Dawit L. Petros' *ADDIS/CHROMES* project and the presentation of *IMPETUS* was a hit. The gallery was crowded with art lovers, friends and fans of the artists featured in the two contemporaneous exhibitions. Mulugeta Tafesse's series on display was a popular talking point as were the outstanding monumental portraits of Tewodros Hagos. The artists were in attendance to answer questions and there was a lot of discussion about the future of the gallery and its impact on the local scene...

Featuring recent works by Behailu Bezabih, Tamrat Gezahagn, Tewodros Hagos, Eyob Kitaba, Bekele Mekonnen, Klaus Mertens, Aïda Muluneh & Mulugeta Tafesse, the exhibition **IMPETUS** examines a range of relationships between movement, representation, action and stillness, modelling the competing desires for stimulus that characterise our present moment. Ranging from drawing to painting, photography to installation, many of the works in the exhibition animate the tensions between instability and control. The eight artists included in this group show represent only a small sample of the exciting and varied directions in the Addis Ababa art scene.



IMPETUS

Eyob Kitaba, Tewodros Hagos & Klaus Mertens (left)

Eyob Kitaba, Klaus Mertens, Mulugeta Tafesse & Bekele Mekonnen (right)

Views of the exhibition

2010



Flag
Mixed Media
2008
Behailu Bezabih



Untitled I
Mixed media on paper
2010
Eyob Kitaba



Past/Forward
Photographic print
Addis Ababa, 2008
Aida Muluneh



Hidden Secret

Mixed media

2010

Klaus Mertens

(+ *Tewodros Hagos's paintings on the background*)



Faces, Torsoes/Paprika, Figures, Frivolous, Bent Figures & Kicking

Oil on paper

2003, 2001, 1999, 1996 & 2005

Mulugeta Tafesse



Tired Plough & Never Say Die
Charcoal & pastel on paper
2008

Anger in Hunger
Metal
2004

Bekele Mekonnen



Attention The message
5 Indian ink on paper
2010

Untitled
Mixed media on paper
2010

Tamrat Gezahagn



Federal Police
Oil on canvas
2010
Tewodros Hagos



IMPETUS
Behailu Bezabih (left)
Tewodros Hagos (right)
Views of the exhibition
2010



IMPETUS

Klaus Mertens, Aïda Muluneh & Behailu Bezabih (left)

Bekele Mekonnen, Klaus Mertens, Tamart Gezahagn & Tewodros Hagos (right)

Views of the exhibition

2010



IMPETUS

Behailu Bezabih, Klaus Mertens, Mulugeta Tafesse & Bekele Mekonnen (left)

Klaus Mertens & Tewodros Hagos (right)

Views of the exhibition

2010



IMPETUS

Tewodros Hagos, Behailu Bezabih, Klaus Mertens & Mulugeta Tafesse (left)

Behailu Bezabih, Klaus Mertens, Mulugeta Tafesse, Bekele Mekonnen & Tamrat Gezahagh (right)

Views of the exhibition

2010



Founder & director of ATELIER art gallery, Leo Lefort has an extensive curatorial background in Ethiopia having worked for reputable galleries, public and private institutions, non-governmental organizations, and government from 1999 up to the future.

In 2000 he was a recipient of the prestigious “AFAA Prize”, awarded annually by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to five cultural entrepreneurs living abroad, for the creation of the Taitu International Art Center. He taught Art Theory & Aesthetics at the School of Fine Arts & Design, Addis Ababa University for three years and was then affiliated for another two years with the Institute of Ethiopian Studies as an independent researcher documenting the development of Ethiopian contemporary arts. In 2006, he co-founded the LeLa Art Gallery where he curated 13 acclaimed solo and group shows featuring local and international artists. He was recently appointed Head of the Visual Art Department at ICS where he has been teaching visual arts courses for the past three years.

Mentored by art historian, theorist & curator Denys Zacharopoulos, Leo Lefort holds a Master Degree in Fine Arts from the Université de Haute Bretagne, Rennes, France.



ATELIER Fine Arts Gallery
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

addisatelier@gmail.com

[website](#)

