

THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

YEGIZAW MICHAEL

1999 January Artist-in-Residence
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia / State of Eritrea



"Through the Window"

Date Acquired: 6/15/1999, Date Created: Spring 1999
Framed Dimensions: 19.75 x 27.75", Picture Dimensions: 16 x 24"
Medium: Oil on Canvas

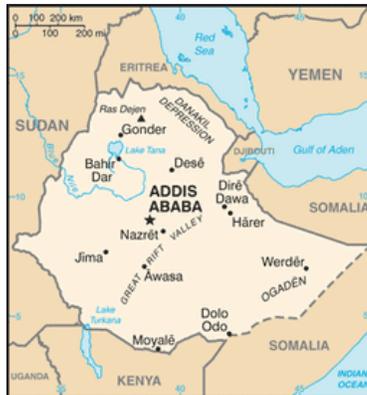
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Yegizaw MICHAEL

1999 Griffis Art Center's International Artist-in-Residence
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia / State of Eritrea



“The Visions of Yegizaw MICHAEL root in a world of natural and supernatural elements that are most clearly realized in their humanity. Both figurative and abstract, his profound sense of design is from beginning to end emotional. For Yegizaw MICHAEL, a painting that is a success must change your life, including peace and the spirit though not without the tension and even the despair of their absence.”

MICHAEL's recent work in general can be characterized as kind of a door or window. In his world, “Everyone has a door to life. For some it is easy to open, for others it is hard, yet all of us have to open it, in ourselves and others. Similarly, everyone has his or her window. A person sees through it. A person is seen through it. It is a kind of ‘enlightened’ yet breakable form of protection against the environment that is too hot or too cold, too wet or too dusty. Nevertheless, at times it must be opened, too.” This “window” of MICHAEL's painting reveals a visual work of body and soul through a use of textured light and color that is thoroughly informed by Africa...”

The visual power of MICHAEL's work is still stronger through his mercurial use of ancient African symbols and letters, including Africa's most ancient and continuous, 3000 year-old written language, Gs'sz. He can deploy it to refer to the monumental achievements of Aksumite and Sabeian culture and/or to contemporary political realities of war and peace in ... Eritrea. “

Yegizaw Michael was born in 1968 in Addis Ababa, where he grew up and studied for three years at the Addis Ababa of Fine Arts. In 1990, due to the worsening situation in Ethiopia, Yegizaw fled to exile in the neighboring country of Kenya, where he lived for the next 8 years and refined his artistic talents. In 1999 he came to the United States.”

Charles Cantalupo, 3/99