

LE QUOTIDIEN DE L'ART

ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

12.2021

ARTISTS GUIDE

Our selection
Nuestra selección



**FROM KARON DAVIS
TO AMANDA WILLIAMS**
19 artists to watch
19 artistas a seguir

Ficre Ghebreyesus

Lelong (Paris, New York)

Booth F21

BY/POR ALISON MOSS



Ficre Ghebreyesus

Map / Quilt I, circa 1999,
acrylic on unstretched canvas,
73 x 115,5 in (185,4 x 293,4 cm).

The Estate of Ficre Ghebreyesus/
Courtesy of Galerie Lelong & Co.

Biography

- 1962** Born in Asmara, Eritrea, during their war of Independence
- 1978** Leaves the country as a political refugee to Sudan, Italy and Germany
- 1981** Settles in the United States working as a humanitarian activist
- 1987** Earns a BA Southern Connecticut State University
- 2002** Earns an MFA Yale School of Art and is awarded the Carol Schlossberg Prize for Excellence in Painting at graduation
- 2012** Dies in New Haven, Connecticut

Late artist Ficre Ghebreyesus' career had remained relatively obscure until his death. The gallery, which represents the artists' estate since 2019, shows his work at the fair for the first time. His dreamlike oil paintings are inspired by his experience as an Eritrean born refugee fleeing the war of Independence and travelling throughout various cities across Europe, before finally settling in the United States. Many cultural references from his travels are subtly referenced in his work, usually intertwined with those of his native African folklore such as hued woven shapes echoing Eritrean textiles – an expression of his yearning of his home country. The artist himself had often insisted on the therapeutic virtues of his practice, which he believes contributed to heal the pain of exile and helped him find the “sense of place” he so adamantly sought.

La tardía carrera del artista Ficre Ghebreyesus permaneció relativamente oculta hasta su fallecimiento. La galería, que representa el Patrimonio del artista a partir de 2019, muestra su obra en la feria por primera vez. Sus pinturas al óleo de ensueño están inspiradas por su experiencia como refugiado nacido en Eritrea que huyó de la guerra de Independencia y viajó por diversas ciudades de toda Europa antes de establecerse finalmente en los Estados Unidos. Muchas referencias culturales de sus viajes son sutilmente mostradas en su obra, generalmente entremezcladas con las de su folclore nativo africano como las tonalidades de las telas que se hacen eco de los tejidos de Eritrea, una expresión de esta añoranza por su país natal. El propio artista insistió a menudo en las virtudes terapéuticas de su práctica, que cree que contribuyó a aliviarle el dolor del exilio y le ayudó a encontrar el “sentido de pertenencia” que tan obstinadamente buscó.