

Dawit Abebe

Liminal in the age of mobile-ty

Opening:

Thursday, 26 April, 6–9pm

Duration:

26 April – 16 June 2018

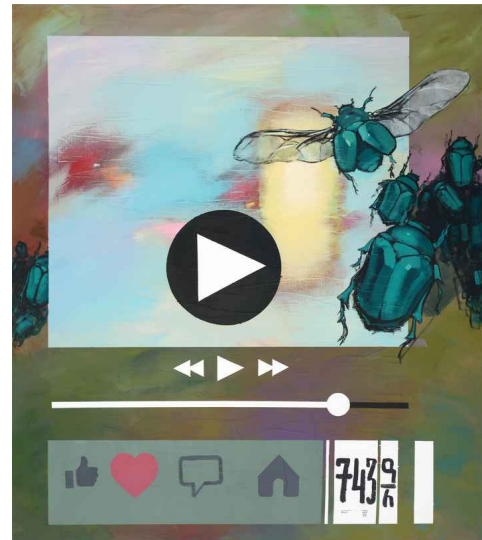
Opening hours during Gallery Weekend

Friday, 27 April: 11am–9pm

Saturday & Sunday, 28 & 29 April: 11am–7pm

Location:

68projects, Fasanenstraße 68, 10719 Berlin



Dawit Abebe, *Liminal*, 2018, Oil on canvas, 160 x 140 cm

68projects der GALERIEKORNFELD
presents

Works by Aethopian painter Dawit Abebe „Liminal in the age of mobile-ty“

Liminal in the age of mobile-ty is the latest body of work that the Ethiopian artist **Dawit Abebe** created during his period of residency at 68projects in Berlin between October 2017 and March 2018. Dawit Abebe is known for his large format paintings on canvas and drawings on paper that explore narratives of history and identity, the notion of knowledge, issues of surveillance vs privacy and development as opposed to nature and the environment. His works revolve also around the impact of technological transformation vis-à-vis the local and the global.

Liminal in the age of mobile-ty is made up of seven paintings on canvas in which the artist uses the smartphone and social media images and symbols as a starting point to explore the intricacy of human communication aided by advanced technology. He is concerned with what happens in the space in-between when interaction is erratic and fragmentations and disconnections occur be it in history, knowledge, time and space. *Mutual Identity* is the title of the remaining three works on paper that accompany *Liminal in the age of mobile-ty*. This body of work follows on Dawit Abebe's *X-Privacy* series from 2012 in which he critically examines the themes of power and individual and collective freedom.

Dawit Abebe, who is based in his hometown Addis Ababa, is a seasoned traveler who draws inspirations from the countries and places he visits. His critical observations force him to try and make sense of contemporary everyday life both at local and global levels. He is intrigued by the intersection of modern life and tradition. He repeatedly questions the notion of knowledge and human values. He scrutinizes the scale and impact of globalization and advancement of

technology on developed and developing countries as well as on individual and collective identities. Dawit Abebe begins with a theme and creates a series of works which in turn become organically the starting point for his next theme and body of work. Thus, we see him constantly revisiting certain elements that he uses as his artistic vocabulary. His works have an autobiographical dimension as his social commentaries stem from his own personal experiences as an insider as well as outsider depending on where he is situated at a given time.

Dawit Abebe works on large canvases which once primed, he collages first old exercise book pages bought from the Addis Ababa flea market. And then he covers the collage with a paint that he uses as a background for creating his images on. His paintings are therefore layered and textured with meanings that go literally beyond the surface. For his *Liminal in the age of mobile-ty* series, he has experimented even further and created a third layer using a white gauzy material onto which in some cases he has painted an additional image.

Dawit Abebe was born in 1978 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is a graduate of Addis Ababa University, Alle School of Fine Arts and Design (2001). He founded the collective Habesha Art Studio together with his friends soon after they left the art school. Dawit Abebe has participated in several group shows and has had numerous solo shows in Ethiopia as well as in other parts of the world including the Emirates, France, Germany, Kenya, the Netherlands, South Africa, Tanzania, UK, and the USA. In Europe, he is represented by Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London. His works are in the collections of Barjeel Art Foundation, Rema Hort Mann Foundation, Saatchi Gallery, Frank Cohen, Carole Server and Oliver Frankel.

Join in the conversation with 68projects and Dawit Abebe on Instagram (@68projects), Facebook (@68projects) and via the hashtags #DawitAbebe and #68projects.

Representatives from 68projects/GALERIE KORNFELD BERLIN are available if you have any questions or would like any further information.

We're also glad to send printable images at your request.

With warm regards,
Janina Rösner

Contact:

Janina Rösner
berlin@68projects.com
Tel: +49 30 889 288 76 | Fax +49 30 889 225 899
www.68projects.com | <http://www.facebook.com/68projects>