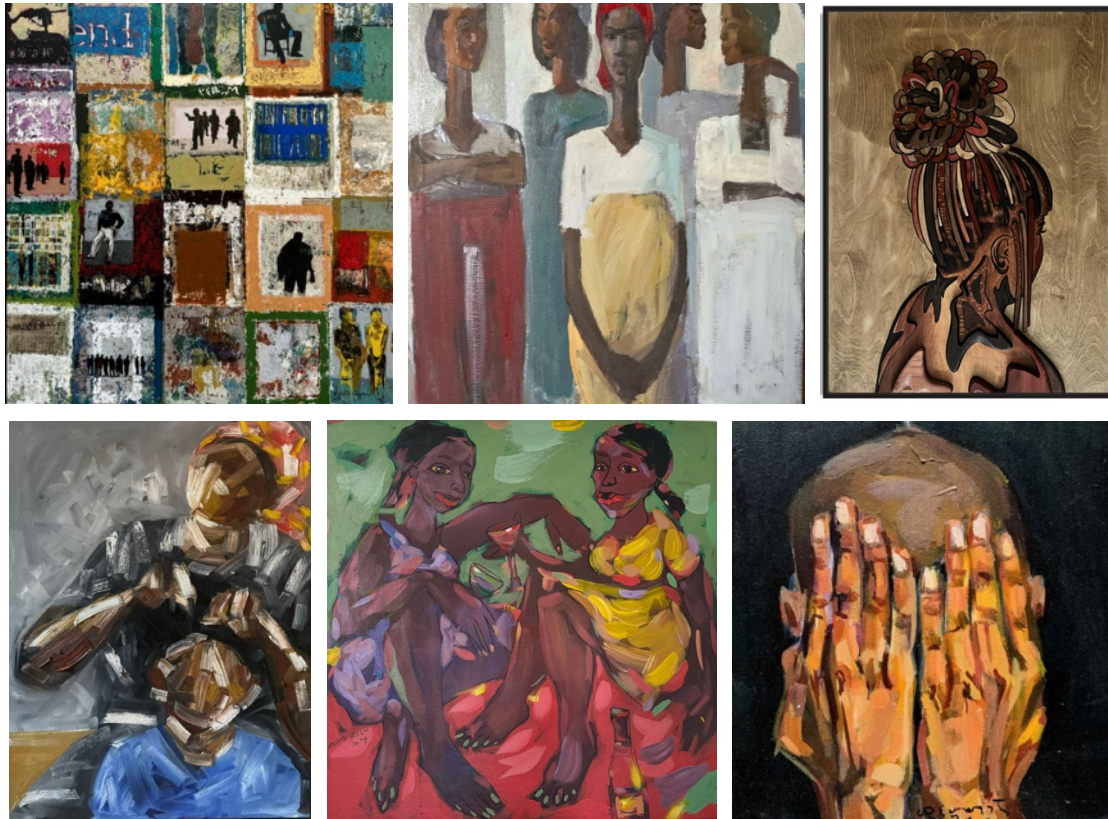


**TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY exhibits at the AFFORDABLE ART FAIR NYC  
METROPOLITAN PAVILION | BOOTH#D4 | SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of 2024**



*from left to right*

1. ADDIS GEZEHAGN | PRESENCE, 2024 | 36" X 36" | Acrylic and Paper on Canvas
2. TADESSE MESFIN | HOPE, 2024 | 28.5" X 23.5" | Oil on Canvas
3. CANDICE TAVARES | BLOOM, 2024 | 24" X 32" | Mixed Media on Wood
4. MOSES SALIHOU | PETITE FILLE, 2024 | 24" X 36" | Oil on Canvas
5. WORKNEH BEZU | I WAS HELD, 2023 | 47" X 47" | Acrylic on Canvas
6. WENDIMAGEGN GASHAM DEMEKE | FINGERS OVER FACE, 2024 | 14" X 16" | Oil on Canvas

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[ BROOKLYN NY, September 11, 2024 ] The Tanya Weddemire Gallery is thrilled to announce its participation at the AFFORDABLE ART FAIR NYC on SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> of 2024 at the famous METROPOLITAN PAVILION in CHELSEA NEW YORK. We are set to exhibit the remarkable talents of six phenomenal artists: **ADDIS GEZEHAGN, TADESSE MESFIN, CANDICE TAVARES, MOSES SALIHOU, WORKNEH BEZU, and WENDIMAGEGN GASHAM DEMEKE.**

Their works are deeply rooted in the rich cultural heritage of the African Diaspora. They speak to universal themes that resonate across borders. From the vibrant colors and intricate patterns to the exotic woodwork and intense brush strokes in both figurative and abstract works, these artworks present COMMUNITY, CULTURE, and LEGACY through thought-provoking narratives.

## FEAUTURING ARTISTS



**about ADDIS GEZEHAGN** | [@addisgezehagn](https://www.instagram.com/addisgezehagn)

Addis Gezehagn (b.1978) Gezehagn completed his BFA from Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Art in 2011 with a distinction. A long-time artistic presence in Addis Ababa, he is known for portraying the multifaceted characteristics of the city's residents by detailing the external facades of their homes. In his painting series, he captures the chaos, charisma, artistry, and harmony of his birth country, Ethiopia. The paintings depict dream-like deconstructed and layered renderings of the urban landscape rising above the ground. These compositions, made by layering magazine cutouts with acrylic paint, blend the boundaries of fantasy and reality of urban life, blurring the lines between the past, present, and future. Flattened and reductive, Gezehagn's works imagine cityscapes as towers or patchworks of colorful doors and gates, the architectural structures seeming to signify a natural, organic network of living spaces.



**about TADESSE MESFIN**

Tadesse Mesfin (b.1953 ) in Woldia, the northern part of Ethiopia. In 1959, at age 6, he came to Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. After completing elementary school in 1964, he then entered Prince Bede Mariam University Laboratory School; after finished 9th grade in 1968, he joined Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts and Design after passing the entrance examination. Mesfin studied for five years and graduated with great distinction, specializing in painting. After graduation, he worked as a stage and costume designer at the National Theatre for five years. In 1978, he got a scholarship and extended his studies in the former Soviet Union. He studied at the St. Petersburg Repin Academy of Painting, sculpture, and Architecture for seven years and graduated with honors, specializing again in painting. In 1984, after returning to Ethiopia, Mesfin taught drawing, painting, composition, and contemporary concepts in art for the last 34 years at Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Art and Design. He since has resigned from teaching and is a full-time studio visual artist.



**about CANDICE TAVARES** | [@noellerrx](https://www.instagram.com/noellerrx)

Candice Tavares is a self-taught illustrator and wood artist born and raised just outside of Philadelphia, PA. Her art celebrates Black beauty, love, and culture, highlighting the rich history and diversity of black hair and skin complexion. She sees her art as an opportunity to challenge the negative narratives about blackness that are so prevalent within the healthcare system and mainstream media. Her art is intended to remind Black people of their inherent beauty and value and remind non-black viewers of their shared humanity with Black and Brown people through the common bonds of love, joy, and longing.



**about MOSES SALIHOU | [@moses\\_salihou](#)**

Moses Salihou is a Cameroonian artist based in Toronto. He explores the ideas of belonging and existence by creating work that blends elements of portraiture and abstraction. Salihou's thick application of paint creates a textural intensity that mirrors our own internal complexities. Central to Salihou's work is his belief that human beings are composites of various identities, experiences, beliefs, and emotions. Salihou's gestural application leaves the defining features on the faces of his portraits only loosely representational. The portraits become composites of various people rather than fixed and stable identities, allowing the observer to be a participant rather than just a viewer. These rich surface effects provide Salihou's work with a sense of dynamism that captures the fluidity and movement he ascribes to the concepts of identity and personhood. Salihou has exhibited across the United States and Canada. His work is also in private collections globally, including in Europe, New Zealand, Africa, Asia, Canada, and the US.



**about WORKNEH BEZU KASSA | [@worknehbezu](#)**

Workneh Bezu Kassa (b.1978) grew up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Workneh began drawing at a very young age, taking drawing lessons in elementary school and showing great artistic ability. Although his family encouraged him to become an auto mechanic, Workneh was destined to follow his passion for art and enrolled at the prestigious Addis Ababa University School of Fine Art and Design to study under some of the masters of Ethiopian Painting and Sculptor. For Workneh, art is his life, passion, and dreams. Receiving formal training gave Workneh the techniques and academic skills he needed to bring his dreams to reality. Workneh experiments with different artistic forms and became one of Ethiopia's pioneers of children's puppet films and short animation films. His creations include rug puppets, oil and watercolor paintings, sculptures, and graphics art.



**about WENDIMAGEGN GASHAM DEMEKE**

Wendemagegn Gasham Demeke (b.1985) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Art is second nature to Demeke. He feels it, plays with it, and lives with it. Demeke explores his childhood experiences and reflects on them in his art. He aims to connect deeply with his surroundings through observation and participation. He enjoys experimenting with various mediums and techniques, combining drawing, painting, and sculpture to create impactful pieces. His art often addresses social, political, and personal issues, using Ethiopian cultural elements to emphasize these themes.

**About TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY | [@tanyaweddemiregallery](https://www.tanyaweddemiregallery.org)**

The Tanya Weddemire Gallery is a Brooklyn-based art gallery that thrives from being a vital source and representation of the arts. It's a premier art destination dedicated to showcasing the work of emerging established artists. Its mission is to deepen the value and importance of art by enriching each person's perspective on life explorations through exhibits. The gallery applies thoughtful and intentional curation while integrating cultural and historical connections to all their shows that can include, but are not limited to, paintings, sculptures, drawings, photography, fashion, and furniture. Located at 254 36th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11232.

**JOIN US for VIP NIGHT on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> | 6PM - 9PM**  
**AFFORDABLE ART FAIR NEW YORK | METROPOLITAN PAVILION | BOOTH#D4**  
**125 WEST 18TH STREET | NEW YORK, NY 10011.**

*For more information about the exhibition and Tanya Weddemire Gallery, please visit:*  
[www.tanyaweddemiregallery.org](https://www.tanyaweddemiregallery.org)

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**ARTSY | [Tanya Weddemire Gallery](https://www.artsy.net/gallery/tanya-weddemire-gallery)**