

THE ARTIST

Lulseged Retta is grateful to the teachers he worked with, at the Addis Ababa Art School and the Repine Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg, for helping bring out his talent. An interest in traditional art found in wall paintings in Churches and the illustrations found in religious manuscripts gave Lulseged inspiration and a starting point. Lulseged started on a path of research, discovery and growth.

Lulseged joined the ETTE (Ethiopian Tourist Trading Enterprise) and was soon drawn into creating traditional art through the use of modern syntax and his own original methods. Using the disciplines of the traditional Ethiopian art technique, which included the use of disproportional parts (big eyes, long fingers and necks) to stress/underline the messages of religious life, family and spirituality; Lulseged created poster works which simultaneously launched his career and also brought great support to the ETTE.

Today, following an accomplished education, including a Master's with honors, 1986, at the Repine Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg and over 25 exhibitions throughout the world, Lulseged's art is distinctly recognized and appreciated. Many early influences contribute to an artist's journey. Lulseged's heartfelt thanks goes out to the many, many friends, schools, institutions, mentors, artist and creative support he has had coaching him along the way.

Lulseged Retta - is now a full-time studio artist, designer and consultant. He lives with his family in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

THE ART

A DISTINCTIVE STARTING POINT

Lulseged's 'finger print' started in the early 1980's when he created poster works keenly blending traditional art with a sense of modernism through his unique perspective, talent and skills of interpretation. Reproductions of his poster works have and continue to sell worldwide. In the process of developing the philosophy, styles, themes and subjects of his poster works, his paintings started to take off.

Presently Lulseged's art, based on Ethiopian traditions, history and culture, is offered to provoke and engage the viewer to participate and respond.

"Art is infinite. It is like a pond in a desert that comes and goes occasionally. It takes hard work and research to make it one's own permanently. Whether one likes it or not, the artist initially dialogues with his/her work and then, with onlookers for or against the work which is done. When onlookers understand the endeavor and the philosophy of the artist in a harmony of spirit and thinking, and when he/she begins to explain, everything becomes clear. And the work which was done with such hard work becomes one's own."

Lulseged Retta