

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

CV | Theo Eshetu

Born in 1958, London, UK

Lives and works between Rome, Italy and Berlin, Germany

EDUCATION

1981

BA in Communication Design, North East London Polytechnic, London, UK

1978

Art Foundation, Ipswich College of Higher and Further Education, Ipswich, UK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020

Atlas Portraits, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK

2019

Faces and Places, Akbank Sanat, Istanbul, Turkey

2018

Feedback: Art, Africa and the Eighties Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany

2017

The Slave Ship, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK

2015

Constellations, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK

2014

Kochi/Muziris Biennale, Kerala, India

Transform – Artists Beyond Film: Theo Eshetu, Tate Britain, London, UK

The Return of the Axum Obelisk, DAAD Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2013

Cinémafrica in Cineteca Retrospective, Cinema Trevi, Rome, Italy

Double Feature Picture Show Biennale de Lubumbashi, Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo

2012

Corpo Elettronico Video arte Italiani, Complesso Monumentale del San Giovanni Catanzaro, Italy

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2011

Circus Maximus, Danish National Academy of Music (with Alvin Curran), Denmark

Moderna Musica Festival, Centro del Carmen, Valencia, Spain

Art at Work Pavillion, part of Visionary Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

2010

Brave New World, Museum of African Art, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA

Geo Graphics-Visionary Africa, Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium

Roma, Rome Film Festival, Italy

2009

The Return of the Aksum Obelisk, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

The Tropics, National Gallery of South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

Ars & Navis, Arsenale di La Spezia, Italy

2008

Retrospective, In Video Festival, Milan, Italy

I Racconti del mandala, Teatro Colosseo, Rome and Teatro Civico di La Spezia, Italy

Five for Monk (with Roberta Garrison), St Stephen's Theater, Philadelphia PA, USA

2007

Buio in Sala, K Kino, Sala Principe dei Piermonti, Viareggio, Italy

Made in Italy-Retrospective: Theo Eshetu, Filmstudio, Rome, Italy

South of the Other, The Robert Flaherty Film Seminar, Poughkeepsie NY, USA

2006

Meditation on African Light, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore MD, USA

2005

Africanised Retrospective: The Videos of Theo Eshetu, Padova, Verona and Bari, Italy

2004

The Films of Theo Eshetu, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York NY, USA

Monografia Electronica, Zo Cultural Centre, Catania, Italy

Body and Soul, Special Event presentation, Venice Film Festival, Italy

2003

Blood, Museo Laboratorio d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Italy

Digital Africa, Electronic Arts Intermix/African Film Festival, New York NY, USA

2002

Africanized, 58th Venice Film Festival, Italy

1999

Brave New World, Lavori in Corso, MACRO, Rome, Italy

1998

La nascita di Dioniso, Museo de Arte Italiana, Lima, Peru

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1996

University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1995

Archipelago 3, Osservatorio sul cinema Italiano, Cinema Savoy, Rome, Italy

Il Gato e la Volpe (with Fathi Hassan), Galleria Pio Monti, Rome, Italy

1994

Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Nice, France

Che Bien Resistes, Museum of Contemporary Art, Arezzo, Italy

Mass Memory, 50th Mostra Int. d'Arte Cinematographica, Venice, Italy

Arte & Jeans, Minimi Rilievi, Passage de Retz, Paris, France

La Nascita dio Dioniso, Galleria Cesare Manzo, Pescara, Italy

1993

Filmladen Kassel: Peter Greenaway & Theo Eshetu, Kassel, Germany

I.ME.RE.C, Marseille, France

Museo del Cinema, Turin, Italy

Zapping, Galleria Nova, Rome, Italy

1992

Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London, UK

Video Distorsioni, Sulmona Cinema, Italy

Artel, Galleria Comunale, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy

TER International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Termoli, Italy

1990

Il Luogo della complessita, Museum of Contemporary Art of La Sapienza, Rome, Italy

1989

Studio D'ars, Milan, Italy

1987

International Art Show for the End of World Hunger: Sonja Henies-Onstads, Oslo; Saint Paul, MN, USA

Monitors, Galleria MR/Goethe Institute, Rome, Italy

Video Art Italiana, Galleria Civica, Monza, Italy

1985

Saint Louis Music City, Rome, Italy

1983

The Portrait Part One, New International Gallery, Rome, Italy

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GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

Exposure: Art, culture, fashion in and out of the showcase, MUDEC - Museo delle Culture, Milan, Italy

2022

Beauty And Terror: Sites Of Colonialism And Fascism, Madre Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, Italy

Shifting Dialogues: Photography from The Walther Collection, K21, Kunstsammlung NRW Düsseldorf, Germany

2021

The Faculty of Sensing, Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Germany

2020

The Faculty of Sensing – Thinking with Anton W. Amo, Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany
Bamako International Biennale of Photography, Mali

The Sum of All Parts, MoMa, New York NY, USA

2019

Masks: The Art of Transformation, Kunst Museum, Bonn, Germany

12th edition of Rencontres de Bamako (Bamako Encounters), Bamako, Mali

The Sorcerer's Burden: Contemporary Art and The Anthropological Turn, The Contemporary Austin TX, USA

Migrating Worlds: The Art of the Moving Image in Britain, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven CT, USA

And Berlin Will Always Need You. Kunst, Handwerk und Konzept Made in Berlin. Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany

2018

Africa. The Ecstatic Religions, Musée d'ethnographie de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

You Are Here: Light, Color, and Sound Experiences, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh NC, USA

Feedback: Art, Africa, and the 1980s, Iwalewahaus, Bayreuth, Germany

From Africa to the Americas: Face-to-face Picasso, Past and Present, Montreal Museum of Fine Art, Montreal, Canada

I Is an Other | Be The Other, National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rome, Italy

Von Verdrängtem, Der Nacht Und Der Farbe Schwarz, E-Werk, Freiburg, Germany

2017

Documenta 14, Athens, Greece & Kassel, Germany

Unmasked, Axis Gallery, New York NY, USA

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2016

VideoStudio, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York NY, USA

Senses of Time: Video and Film-Based Works of Africa, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA

Still (the) Barbarians, EVA International – Ireland's Biennial, Limerick, Ireland

12th Edition: The City in the Blue Daylight instead of International Exhibition, International Exhibition, Dak'Art Biennial 2016, Dakar, Senegal

Videonale in Lagos, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria

2015

After Eden, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France

A Story within a Story, GIBCA 2015 - Göteborg Biennial, Sweden

Nero sur Bianco, American Academy in Rome Gallery, Rome, Italy

I Got Rhythm, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany

Xenopolis (curated by Simon Njami), Deutsche Bank Kunsthalle, Berlin, Germany

2014

Wir sind alle Berliner, Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Germany

Fragments of Empires, Momentum Berlin, Colloquium Hungaricum, Berlin, Germany

Inventer le possible: Une vidéothèque éphémère, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

Travelling Communique, Museum of Yugoslav History, Belgrade, Serbia

Millerntor Gallery, Momentum, FC St.Pauli, Hamburg, Germany

2013

After Year Zero: Geographies of Collaboration since 1945, HKW, Berlin, Germany

IkonoTV On Air Festival, International Video Art Festival, online

Probrbühne 1, Humboldt Lab, Ethnographic Museum, Dahlem, Berlin, Germany

2012

Agency of Unrealized Projects, DAADgalerie, Berlin, Germany

System Operation, Eli Ridgway Gallerie, San Francisco CA, USA

Africa Rising, Cloître des Billettes, Paris, France

2011

Carmen in Fine, video theatrical performance by Massimo Verdastrò

Cinema e Diversità Culturale, Palladium, Rome, Italy

Eyes al Asiatica Film Mediale, MACRO Testaccio, Rome, Italy

Rome Video Art Festival, Rome, Italy

Singularità mobile che abitano uno spazio namade, Casa dei Teatri Villa Doria Pamphili, Rome, Italy

2010

The Tropics, The Jim Johnson Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Il Caos #2, San Servolo, Venice, Italy

Look At Festival, Fondazione Gagghianti, Lucca, Italy

Festival Archipelago, Rome, Italy

Events of the Self, The Walther Collection, Neu Ulm, Germany

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2009

Message in a Bottle, Arsenale di La Spezia, La Spezia, Italy
Africa Reflected, The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Non Angli Sed Angeli: A Pilgrimage, A Mission, Venerable English College, Rome, Italy
Fish Eye, Cinema L'Aquila, Rome, Italy

2008

Memphis Brookes Museum of Art, Memphis TN, USA
The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Die Tropen, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany

2007

Equatorial Rhythms, Stenersen Museum, Oslo, Norway
Snap Judgements, Miami Art Central, Miami FL, USA
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa ON, Canada
Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico
Os Tropicos, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2006

Snap Judgements, International Centre For Photography, New York NY, USA
Electro Shock: 30 Years of Italian Video Art, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
Codes of Culture: Video Art from 7 Continents, Argentina
The Project Room, New York NY, USA
C/o Care Of, Onda Dall'Italia, Italy
In Loop, Brancolini Grimaldi Gallery, Florence, Italy

2005

Africa Remix: Contemporary Art from the African Continent, Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, London, UK
Body and Soul, MACRO Videoteca, Rome, Italy
Arte Fiera, Padova & Bologna, Italy
Frames, Massenzio, Rome, Italy

2004

Living for the City, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York NY, USA
The Creation Trilogy, Sulmona Film Festival, Italy
On Air, Galleria Comunale di Arte Contemporanea di Monfalcone, Gorizia, Italy

2003

Europalia FNAC, Brussels, Belgium
Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Italy
Video Zone, Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
Selection, Shijiazhuang Museum, Shijiazhuang, Hebei, China

2002

Net Image Live Video VJ Contest, Milan, Italy
Sala Uno, Rome, Italy
Prix Italia, Teatro Massimo, Palermo, Italy

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2001

Museum of African Art, New York NY, USA

Ways to A Void, Palazzo Degli Esposizioni, Rome, Italy

Electro Shock: 30 Years of Italian Video Art, Acquario Romano and MACRO, Rome, Italy

2000

Trans Africana, Chiesa Di San Giorgio, Bologna, Italy

Input 2000, Halifax, Canada

The New York African Film Festival, Lincoln Centre, New York NY, USA

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York NY, USA

1999

Festival del Cinema Africano, Milan, Italy

Visibilità Zero, Goethe Institute, Rome, Italy

Golem Video Festival, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin, Italy

Sithengi, Cape Town, South Africa

1998

In-video, Milan, Italy

Festival di Cinema Africano, Milan, Italy

Dublin Film Festival, Dublin, Ireland

Fespaco/ Input, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Vues D'Afrique, Quebec, Canada

World Wide Video Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Incontri sul Video, La Spezia, Italy

Balafon '98 Film Festival, Bari, Italy

Istituto Giapponese di Cultura, Rome, Italy

1997

University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

University of Berkeley, Berkeley CA, USA

Pesaro Film Festival, Pesaro, Italy

Autheur Film Festival, Belgrade, Serbia

Mill Valley Film Festival, Mill Valley CA, USA

London Film Festival, NFT, London, UK

Video Art Plastique, France

1996

Riciclart: Art and Recycling at the Slaughterhouse, Rome, Italy

Kind of Blue, Milan, Italy

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1995

Preserviamoci, Rome, Italy

Art & Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia

La Città Ideale, Fiumara d'arte, Sicily

Artisti per Opening, American Academy in Rome, Italy

Africana, Sala Uno, Rome, Italy

Pandemonium, Festival of Moving Images, ICA, London, UK

Un anno Italiano in Video, Superstudio, Milan, Italy

Arcipelago Film Festival, Cinema Augustus, Rome, Italy

Inverso sud, Aversa Film Festival, Italy

Art for All, Palazzo Braschi, Rome, Italy

Arte elettronica e Linguaggi Televisivi, RAI, Rome, Italy

1994

Opera Stabile, Rome, Italy

Mondi Virtuali, Sala Umberto, Rome, Italy

Dov'è il Video, Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporaneo, La Sapienza, Rome, Italy

Video les Beaux Jours, Strasbourg, France

Göteborg International Film Festival, Sweden

Deutscher Videokunstpreis 1994, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany

1993

Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany

Input 93, Bristol, UK

In-video, Aiace, Milano, Italy

Da Sodoma a Hollywood, Torino Gay Film Festival, Torino, Italy

Video les Beaux Jour, Strasbourg, France

Torino Film Festival, Museo del Cinema, Torino, Italy

TTVV, Festival of Video and Theater, Riccione, Italy

Anteprima Concorso Gabbiano D'oro Independent Film Festival, Bellaria, Italy

Edinburgh Film Festival, Scotland

Xenografia, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2nd Video Week, Geneva, Switzerland

Ondavideo, Pisa, Italy

Prix Italia, Il Teatro in Televisione, Rome, Italy

1992

Berlin Video Fest 92, Berlin, Germany

Promo Image Festival, Pala Expo, Rome, Italy

7th Australian International Film Festival, Sydney, Australia

ARTEL Electronic Media In Visual Arts In Italy, Galleria Comunale D'Arte, Cagliari, Italy

Melkweg, Amsterdam, Netherlands

London Film Festival, Museum of Moving Images, London, UK

Cinema Indipendente Italiano, Berlino, Italy

Video Teatro '92, Expo '92, Seville, Spain

Videodistorsioni, Sulmona Cinema, Rome, Italy

European Video Art in the Nineties, Goethe Institutes in Latin America

Festival of Poetry and Image, Dense, Denmark

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1991

Video Arte Italiana, Eventi Italian Cultural Institute, Madrid, Spain
Theo Eshetu/ Alexander Hahn, Swiss Institute, Rome, Italy

1990

Italian Cultural Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1989

Televisions, Melbourne Lygon Arts Festival, Melbourne, Australia
4th Edition El Festival de Video Musical de Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country, Spain
Video Biennale, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Festival de Video Musical, Victoria Gasteiz
Video Art Plastique, Hérouville Saint-Clair, France
Studio D'Ars, Milan, Italy

1988

MIPCOM, Cannes, France
Art for Africa, Göteborg Konstmuseum, Göteborg, Sweden
Fukui International Video Biennale, Fukui, Japan
Manifestation Internationale de Video & TV, Montbeliard, France
European Media Arts Festival, Experimental Film Workshop, Osnabruck, Germany
AVE, Arnhem, Netherlands

1987

Fest Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Video CD 87, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Filmer à Tout Prix, Brussels, Belgium
Ars Elettronica, Linz, Austria
World Wide Video Festival, The Hague, Netherlands
Input, Granada, Spain
Point '87, Beaubourg, Paris, France
Videonale, Bonn, Germany
Europe Copyright, Beaubourg, Paris, France
Festival Video Arte, Messina, Italy
Electrovisions, Tokyo, Japan

1986

Festival di Camerino, Camerino, Italy
Prato-Expo, Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy
Tre volte video, Rome, Italy
Montecatini International Short Film Festival Montecatini Terme, Italy

1985

Festival du Nouveau Cinema, Montreal, Canada
Film Maker, Milan, Italy
EU-Video: l'Imagine Elettronica, Bologna, Italy
Espace lyonnais d'art contemporain, Lyon, France
Teleconfronto, Chianciano Terme, Italy

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1984

Festival Video Art, Locarno, Italy

U-Tape, Palazzo dei Diamanti Center of Video Arte, Ferrara, Italy

1982

Torino Film Festival, Italy

Salso Film & TV Festival, Salso Maggiore, Italy

Video Roma 82-83, Rome, Italy

1981

London Film Makers Co-op, London, UK

PRIZES AND AWARDS

2017

Kulturakademie Tarabya, Istanbul, Turkey

2012

DAAD Berliner Künstler Programme (Visual Arts), Berlin, Germany

2011

Presentation at the Arsenale, Venice Biennale 2011, Venice, Italy

2010

Visionary Africa residency award in Burkina Faso, from the Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium

2008

Presentation at Johannesburg Art Fair, Goethe Institut, Cape Town, South Africa

2007

Presentation at Robert Flaherty Film Seminar, Vassar University, New York NY, USA

2005

Award of Merit, Verona Film Meeting, Verona, Italy

2004

Special presentation at Venice Film Festival for Body and Soul, Venice, Italy

2002

Best Biographical Documentary, Asolo Film Festival, Asolo, Italy

Fellowship, Civitella Ranieri Centre, Umbria, Italy

2001

The Best of Input at ITVS, San Francisco CA, USA

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1999

Candidate, Best Documentary, Pan-Africa Arts and Culture Festival, Los Angeles CA, USA
Second Prize, International African Film Festival, Milan, Italy
Award of Merit, African Film Festival, Verona, Italy
Prix du Conseil de l'Europe, Locarno Video Art Festival, Locarno, Switzerland

1995

Special presentation homage to Federico Fellini, Venice Film Festival, Venice, Italy

1993

First Prize, Berlin Video Festival, Transmediale, Berlin, Germany for Travelling Light

1992

Award of Merit, Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondi, Spoleto, Italy for Travelling Light

1989

Oscar Signorini prize awarded by Pierre Restany, Milan, Italy for Nativity

1988

Award of Merit, 2nd Video Biennale, Fukui, Japan

1987

Prize of the Jury, Salso Film & TV Festival, Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy for Questa é Vita
First prize Film-Maker Milan, Milan, Italy for Questa é Vita & L'altro Mondo
Third Prize at U-Tape, Palazzo dei Diamanti, Ferrara, Italy for L'altro Mondo

1986

First prize at U-Tape, Palazzo dei Diamanti, Ferrara, for Questa é Vita
Works published in AXIS video book, Hamburg, Germany

1982

Works published in Infermental 2, Hamburg, Germany

COLLECTIONS

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore MD, USA
MACRO, Rome, Italy
Smithsonian Collection, Washington DC, USA
Tate, London, UK
The Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm, Germany
MoMa, New York, USA

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