# NORR COHAN

**ELIAS SIME**

1968 Born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Lives and works in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**EDUCATION**

1990 Graphic Art from School of Fine Arts and Design at Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**AWARDS**

2020 Shortlist for Hugo Boss Prize, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York, NY.
2019 African Art Award, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C.

**COMMISSIONS**

2023 Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C.
2019 National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
2018 Facebook Artist-in-Residence Program, Menlo Park, CA

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2026 *FINAL DROP (የመጨረሻዋ ጠብታ),* James Cohan, New York, NY
2025 *Elias Sime: Through the Window - በመስኮቱ ውስጥ,* Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE
*Elias Sime,* James Cohan, Paris, France
*Elias Sime: Echo የጎደለ ማሚቶ*, Kunstpalast Düsseldorf, Germany
2024 *Elias Sime*, James Cohan, New York, NY
*Elias Sime: Dichotomy ፊት አና ጀርባ,* Official Collateral Exhibition of La Biennale de Venezia, Spazio Tana, Castello, Venice, Italy
2023 *Elias Sime: Eregata*, Arnolfini, Bristol, United Kingdom; traveled to Hastings Contemporary, Hastings, UK
*TIGHTROPE: ኦረንጌዴ ነው (IT IS GREEN),* James Cohan, New York, NY
*Tightrope: Behind the Processor,* Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2021 *Elias Sime: Tightrope*, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
*TIGHTROPE: ECHO!?,* James Cohan, New York, NY
2020 *Tightrope: Concave Triangles,* Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam
*Currents 118: Elias Sime,* St. Louis Art Museum, MO
2019 *Elias Sime: Tightrope,* Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art,

Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, traveling to Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
*Elias Sime: NOISELESS*, James Cohan, New York, NY
*Elias Sime,* Zoma Museum, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2018 *Tightrope,* Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2017 *Elias Sime: Twisted & Hidden,* James Cohan, New York, NY
2015 *Elias Sime,* James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY
2013 *Tightrope*, British Council, Goethe-Institut, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, and Alliance Éthio-française, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2012 *Eye of the Needle, Eye of the Heart*, North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND
2011 *Ants and Ceramicists*, British Council, Goethe-Institut, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, and Alliance Éthio-française, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2010 *Oedipus-Rex Opera*, Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia
2009 *Oedipus-Rex Opera*, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA
*Eye of the Needle, Eye of the Heart*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA
2008 *What is Love?*, Alliance Éthio-française, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2006 *Metamorphosis*, public mosaic sponsored by European Union and Zoma Contemporary Art Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
*GOTA Tarat-Tarat*, Alliance Éthio-française, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2004 *Min Neber*, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2002 *Retrospect Part 1,* part of *Giziawi #1*, Jara Park, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1999 Hilton Addis Ababa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1998 Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1996 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1995 Organization of African Unity, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1993 Alliance Éthio-française, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2026 *For the Future: 25 Years of Collecting,* Utah Musuem of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT
*MIYAZAKI meets Taguchi Art Collection: What is Contemporary Art?*
Miyazaki Prefectural Art Museum, Miyazaki, Japan
*Presence of Absence: Embodied Portraiture,* Thoma Foundation, Cedar Springs, TX
*Blows Like a Monsoon - Contemporary Afro-Asian Arts on the Great Journey and Exchange*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu, Japan
*Améfrica: Diasporic Connections in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection,* Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville, Spain
2025 *Assembly Line: Modernism and Machines,* Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Charlotte, NC
*2025 Annual Exhibition, The Campus, Hudson, NY*
*MINEBANE! Contemporary Art - The Taguchi Art Collection,* Akita Senshu Museum of Art, Akita, Japan
*All About 25,* James Cohan, New York, NY
*Electricity for All,* Knoxville Museum of Art, Konxville, TN
*Tending and Dreaming: Stories from the Collection,* San José Museum of Art, San José, CA
2024 *Our Earth*, Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury, UK

*Ethiopia at the Crossroads*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, KS
*Ethiopia at the Crossroads*, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

2023 *To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, El Espacio 23, Miami, FL
*Ethiopia at the Crossroads*, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
*Together…,* Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, AR
*I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen,* Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX

2022 *Life Altering: Selections from a Kansas City Collection,* Faye G., Jo, and James Stone Gallery, Boston University, Boston, MA

2021 *Reclaiming Magic*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom
*Portals*, NEON, Athens, Greece
*Experience & Expression*, Permanent Installation, Detroit Institute of the Arts, Detroit, MI
*Networked Nature*, Art Vault, Thoma Foundation, Santa Fe, NM
*Experience & Expression,* Permanent Installation, Detroit Institute of the Arts, Detroit, MI

2020 *Allied with Power: African and Africa Diaspora art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL
*Recent Acquisitions by the Homestead Collection,* Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
*RELATIONS: Diaspora and Painting*, Phi Foundation, Montréal, Canada
*15th Anniversary Exhibition Where We Now Stand – In Order to Map the Future*, 21st Century of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan
*Second Careers: Two Tributaries in African Art,* curated by Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
*Materality – a testament to the challenge of tradition,* curated by Andrea Lewis, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2019 *Borders,* James Cohan, New York, NY

2018 *I Was Raised on the Internet,* Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL
*Grids,* James Cohan, New York, NY

2017 *Abstract Minded: Works by Six Contemporary African Artists*, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
*Innovative Approaches, Honored Traditions: The Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art at Five Years; Highlights from the Permanent Collection*, Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY
*THE ART SHOW – Art of the New Millenium in Taguchi Art Collection,* Museum of Modern Art Gunma, Gunma, Japan

2016 *The Distance of a Day*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
Festival International d'Art Lyrique with Peter Sellars, Aix-en-Provence, France

2010 *Stitches*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA

2009 *Täarät-Täarät*, Haunch of Venison, London, United Kingdom

2008 *The Essential Art of African Textiles: Design Without End*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
*Flow*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
*Green Flame*, New Crowned Hope Festival, directed by Peter Sellars, Vienna, Austria
Goethe Institut - Addis Wubet and Zoma Contemporary Art Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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2005 *Hidden Talent*, European Union and Zoma Contemporary Art Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
*Addis Ababa Zare*, Addis Ababa University School of Fine Arts and Design, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2003 *Min Neber*, Italian Cultural Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2002 *Giziawi #1*, Meskel Square, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2000 Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1999 Alliance Éthio-française, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1997 Goshu Gallery, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Joint Exhibition of Dutch-Ethiopian Artists in the Netherlands and in Addis Ababa Fine Arts School, Ethiopia
1995 National Museum of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**BIENNALES**

2026 *In Interludes and Transitions /* "في الجِلّ والترحال", Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale, Diriyah, Saudi Arabia
2022 *The Milk of Dreams*, Venice Biennale, curated by Cecilia Alemani, Venice, Italy
2021 *Butterflies Frolicking on the Mud: Engendering Sensible Capital*, Thailand Biennale 2021, Korat, Thailand
2004 Dak'Art 2004, the 6th Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Dakar, Senegal

**PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, AR
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Carl & Marilynn Thoma Art Foundation, Santa Fe, NM
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
Cleveland Clinic Art Collection
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA
de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Fondation H, Madagascar
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
Johns Hopkins University Campus Collection, Baltimore, MD
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
Kunstpalast Düsseldorf, Germany
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX
Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND

Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL
Pizzuti Collection at the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey
Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY
Rollins Museum of Art, Rollins College, Orlando, FL
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
San José Museum of Art, San José, CA
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Stanford University, The Denning House, CA
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

2025 Korn, Felicity, and Anna Grosche, *Elias Sime: Echo የጎደለ ማሚቶ*, Dusseldorf: DCV, Kunstpalast Düsseldorf.
2023 Hickey, Andria, and Nana Biamah-Ofosu, *Elias Sime: Eregata እርጋታ*, Bristol: Arnolfini.
2019 Adler, Tracy L., *Elias Sime: Tightrope*, New York: Prestel.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

2026 Snyder, Michael, "Nine Artists on the Gardens They'll Never Forget," *New York Times,* April 29, 2026.
Waisnis, Edward, "The Sublime Repurposing of Elias Sime," *White Hot Magazine,* March 1, 2026.
Zaman, Aisha, "In Motion: Inside the Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale 2026," *Vogue Arabia,* February 12, 2026.
Morton, Elise, "At Saudi Arabia's Diriyah Biennale, Art Moves in Procession," *Observer,* February 2, 2026.
2025 "A summer fair: Art Dubai foregrounds contemporary art from the Global South," *STIRWorld,* April 14, 2025.
2024 Valentine, Victoria L., "New York: 5 Gallery Exhibitions Feature Works by Artists Trenton Doyle Hancock, Kara Walker, Martha Jackson Jarvis, Terry Adkins, and Elias Sime," *Culture Type*, November 16, 2024.
Morrison, Alexander, "How an artist and curator duo are transforming Addis Ababa with their eco-driven projects," *The Art Newspaper*, May 20, 2024.
Morrison, Alexander, "Elias Sime unearths the catastrophic beauty of mineral extraction in his new Venice show," *The Art Newspaper*, April 18, 2024.
Hamelo, Gameli, "Elias Sime reflects on the destructive nature of technology in Venice," *Wallpaper,* April 17, 2024.

Watlington, Emily, "Elias Sime's E-Waste Abstractions for Venice Are Tightly Linked With his Community Projects in Ethiopia," *Art in America,* April 17, 2024.
Droitcour, Brian, "Elias Sime mines the Chinafrica connection with his motherboard murals," *Art Basel,* April 9, 2024.
Dillon, Rick, "Elias Sime: An artist who weaves visions out of a world of waste," *Sussex Bylines*, April 4, 2024.
Souter, Anna, "Elias Sime Brings Out the Beauty in E-Waste," *Hyperallergic,* January 22, 2024.

2023 Goukassian, Elena, "Ethiopian culture explored with Medieval icons, Haile Selassie's cloak and scratch-and-sniff cards," *The Art Newspaper*, December 1, 2023.

2022 Zuri, Afrodet, "Frieze London 2022: Assemblage", *Cool Hunting,* Octobert 18, 2022.
"STIR highlights notable pieces from Frieze London 2022", *STIRworld*, October 18, 2022.
Wilder, Aaron, "From the Vault," *Roswell Daily Record,* August 28, 2022.
Greenberger, Alex, "Venice Biennale Names 213 Artists for 'Transhistorical' 2022 Edition," *Artnews,* February 6, 2022.

2021 Taylor, Kate, "*The 10 most stunning and startling artworks at Canadian galleries in 2021,"* The Globe and Mail, December 9, 2021.
Alleyne, Allyssia, "The 15 Best Booths at Frieze London and Frieze Masters 2021," *Artsy,* October 14, 2021.
Taylor, Kate, "Now showing at the ROM: Ethiopian artist Elias Sime's landscapes made of recycled electronics," *The Globe and Mail*, July 4, 2021. "DIA features selection of contemporary works in 'Experience & Expression," *Grosse Poine News*, March 4, 2021.
Baran, Jessica, "Elias Sime: Saint Louis Art Museum," *Artforum*, January 5, 2021.

2020 Loos, Ted, "Museums Are Back, but Different: A Visitor's Guide," *New York Times*, October 21, 2020.
Chisholm, Nan, "Elias Sime: Tightrope, Kemper Museum of Conttemporary Art," *KC Studio*, August 12, 2020.
Fenstermaker, Will, "'I Had to Fight to Show What I Could Do': How Elias Sime Emerged as One of Africa's Leading Contemporary Artists," *Artnet News,* March 25, 2020.

2019 Rodney, Steph, "Love and Craftsmanship in the Relationship Between Machines and Humanity," *Hyperallergic,* September 17, 2019.
Heinrich, Will, "Don't Miss These Art Shows and Events This Fall," *The New York Times,* September 12, 2019.
"Your Concise New York Art Guide for Fall 2019," *Hyperallergic,* September 10, 2019.
Hatfield, Zack, "Interview: Elias Sime," *Artforum,* September 3, 2019.
Yau, John, "Mosaics of Motherboards, Keyboards, and Wire," *Hyperallergic,* June 16, 2019.
Johnson, Paddy, "The Art-Making Trend Outshining Large-Scale Sculpture in New York City's Best Shows," *Observer*, June 10, 2019.
Valentine, Victoria L., "Through a Global Lens: Exploring Works on View at the First-Ever Manhattan Edition of 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair," *Culture Type,* May 9, 2019.
Laster, Paul, "Painting Portraits: Two Artists at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair," *Whitehot Magazine of Contemporary Art*, May 5, 2019.
Battaglia, Andy, "From the Continent to the Island: 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair Moves to Manhattan," *ARTnews,* May 2, 2019.
Droitcour, Brian, "Alternate Timeline," *Art in America*, May 1, 2019.

"Elias Sime Set for Major U.S. Museum Shows in NY, Ohio and Kansas," *Tadias,* April 30, 2019.
"Noiseless: Elias Sime's New Exhibition," *Tadias,* April 27, 2019.
Donoghue, Katy, "Elias Sime," *Whitewall,* Spring, 2019.
Brown, Kate, "'It's All About Life': Ethiopia's Newest Art Museum Doubles as an Experiment in Environmental Sustainability," *Artnet News,* April 22, 2019.
Mattioli, Guglielmo, "Addis Ababa's First Contemporary Art Museum Aims to Revive a Local Architectural Tradition," *Metropolis,* January 22, 2019.

2018 Awake, Mik, "Ethiopian Enterprise: Artists Build a Future in Addis Ababa and Beyond," *ARTnews*, Summer 2018.

2017 Blackburn, Virginia, "1:54 Art Fair Returns to London," *Financial Times*, October 5, 2017.
Miller, Leigh Anne, "Elias Sime," *Art in America*, May 2017.

2016 Mitic, Ginanne Brownell, "Arts Center in Ethiopia Links Local and Global," *The New York Times*, June 16, 2016.
"22 Contemporary African Artists Selected by *ARTPREMIUM*," *ARTPREMIUM*, Spring/Summer 2016.
Obrist, Hans-Ulrich, "Feature: Elias Sime" *Pin-Up*, Spring Summer 2016.

2015 Gottschalk, Molly, 'From Massimiliano Gioni to Alex Gartenfield, Art-World Insiders Pick Art Basel in Miami Beach's Artists to Watch," *Artsy*, December 4, 2015.
Rodney, Seph, "Finding Our Way Amid the Modern Fatalism of Circuit Boards," *Hyperallergic*, October 14, 2015.
Cotter, Holland. "Elias Sime Recycles Discarded Objects Into Abstract Works," *The New York Times*, October 1, 2015.
Allenchey, Alex, "In Sprawling Panels, Ethiopian Artist Elias Sime Recycles the First World's Circuit Boards," *Artsy*, October 1, 2015.
"Elias Sime at James Cohan Gallery," *Art Fuse*, September 17, 2015.
Goldstein, Andrew M., "10 of the Best Artworks of the 2015 Armory Show," *Artspace*, March 8, 2015.

2014 Cowcher, Kate, "Tightrope: Elias Sime," *African Arts*, Winter 2014.

2013 Tigabu, Tibebeselassie, "Art is my life," *The Reporter*, November 9, 2013.
Tigabu, Tibebeselassie, "The 'Heart to Heart' from Rome to Addis," *The Reporter*, May 3, 2013.

2011 Clothier, Peter, "The Art of Elias Sime," *The Huffington Post*, May 25, 2011.

2009 Latimer, Quinn, "Elias Sime," *Frieze*, June/August 2009 (Issue 124).
"Elias Sime," *BBC World Service*, May 14, 2009.
Morgan, Susan, "The Talk: Hut Couture," *The New York Times*, April 19, 2009.
Ng, David, "Thrones, Masks and Ethiopia: A Guide to Understanding 'Oedipus Rex' at the L.A. Philharmonic," *Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 2009.
Pagel, David, "Review: 'Elias Sime: Eye of the Needle, Eye of the Heart' at Santa Monica Museum of Art," *Los Angeles Times*, April 3, 2009.
Goodale, Gloria, "The trash of life is Elias Sime's art," *The Christian Science Monitor*, March 13, 2009.
Chenk, Scarlet, "For Elias Simé, every object tells a story," *Los Angeles Times*, February 18, 2009.

2008 Cotter, Holland, "Out of Africa, Whatever Africa May Be," *The New York Times*, April 4, 2008.

Assegued, Meskerem, “A retrospective observation of Elias Sime,” *African Identities,* November 2008.