

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

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 AND FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

2021

Gwangju Biennale, April 2021

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, 2014, India

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

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

2013

Cinemafrica in Cineteca Retrospective, Cinema Trevi, Rome, Italy

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

1983

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

SELECTED VIDEO AND FILM FESTIVALS AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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, 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, Texas, USA

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

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

AFRIQUE Les Religions de l'extase, Musée d'ethnographie de Genève MEG, Switzerland, presentation of 5 video-installations

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 QC, 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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

Videonale in Lagos, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos (CCA, 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 Verducci

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 Gagglianti, Lucca, Italy

Festival Archipelago, Rome, Italy

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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

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
Authour 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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

MIPCOM, Cannes, France
Art for Africa, Göteborg Konstmuseum, Göteborg, Sweden
Fukui International Video Biennale, Fukui, Japan
Manifestation International 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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

2017

Kulturakademie Tarabya, Istanbul

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

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

TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

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