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Media Release for Immediate Release:

Emerging Painting Invitational 2020 announces winners for the second edition:

First Prize: Eyasu Telayneh (Ethiopia)

Second Prize: Yolanda Mazwana (South Africa)

Third Prize: Kirubel Abebe (Ethiopia).

Art Africa Magazine profile prize: Dorra Mahjoubi (Tunisia)

Angola AIR Residency prize: Kylie Wenzel (South Africa)

First Floor Gallery Harare - First Solo residency prize: Eyasu Telayneh (Ethiopia)

African Art Galleries Association – Online mentorship prizes: Willy Karekezi (Rwanda),
Emna Kahouaji (Tunisia) Sejiro Avoseh (Nigeria)

The winners were announced by Dorothy Amenuke on the behalf of the Jury (Dorothy Amenuke (Ghana), Amel Benny (Tunisia), Florine Demosthene (Haiti/USA/Ghana) at an online event hosted by first prize sponsor and host of special online exhibition and auction – Strauss & Co.

First Prize winner receives a cash prize sponsored by Strauss & Co.

Second prize and third prize winners receives a cash prize sponsored by Emerging African Art Galleries Association.

Quotes from winners

Eyasu Telayneh – “EPI plays a great role on staging the innate potential of young artists across the continent as well as disclosing the visibility for artists and the art network. It is a milestone in my early art career.”

Yolanda Mazwana – “I feel really honoured and excited to have won the second prize, I am grateful for the opportunity and can’t wait to create more art. I’ve learnt a lot from the panel discussions that I can implement into my own career moving forward , it’s been an enriching motivating experience to have seen (although virtually) other artists from Africa , artists that are so gifted in their own right and to hear their stories that inspire their art.”

Kirubel Abebe – “It’s not common to find a platform like EPI in Africa that binds the emerging talent of the continent and gives recognition. It’s very important to support these kinds of stages because they play a big role in the sector.”

About Emerging Painting Invitational (EPI)

EPI is a pan-African prize for emerging painters, dedicated to supporting emerging contemporary painting and painters across the continent and building a diverse Afro-centric vision of contemporary art made in Africa.

www.emergingpaintinginvitational.com



The “Invitational” prize and exhibition of finalists was launched by the African Art Galleries Association (AAGA) and hosted by First Floor Gallery Harare and Ngoma NeHosho in the capital of Zimbabwe, Harare in July 2019. Due to Covid19 travel restrictions, the 2020 edition was hosted online in unique collaboration with Strauss & Co as a programme of online panel discussions, virtual studio visits and a master class, as well as special auction.

While contemporary African art has been on the rise internationally, developing skills and engaging the international art world is still a challenge for many young painters on the continent. EPI intends to help motivate, support and develop young visual artists in the context of these constraints. AAGA, made up of 13 galleries based in Africa, whose members, along with invited guests, comprise the nominating committee for the selection of 17 finalist from close to 100 nominations. *“This year’s finalists are an amazing group of committed and passionate artists, who show remarkable breadth of practice and ambition to succeed among emerging artists on the continent,”* adds Julie Taylor, director of Guns & Rain, AAGA member and one of the Nominators.

EPI winners were announced on 19 October, 2020 at an online event with prizes including cash, residencies and exhibitions and press profiles.

“A project that focuses on painters from the continent is very important because for a long time Artists living and working in Africa have not been getting visibility and opportunities as much as artists in the West. And this being championed by reputable [African] galleries means the right resources are invested to support the future of African painters.” says Daudi Karungi, Director of Afriart Gallery (Kampala) and member of Nominating Committee for EPI.

The Jurors for EPI 2020 are three established practising artists and educators Dorothy Amenuke (Ghana), Amel Bennys (Tunisia) and Florine Demosthene (Haiti/USA/Ghana). *“Not to be trapped in a stereotype that critics, curators, and others in the art world, non-African, even African, expect from us, us African artists or of African origin.”* adds Juror Amel Bennys.

The 17 finalists from 8 African countries presented their work at an online exhibition hosted by both Emerging Painting Invitational and Strauss & Co from 12 – 19 October 2020.

“I am very grateful for being part of EPI. It gave us the drive to push further in our practice and the opportunity to meet amazing people.” Tashinga Majiri, finalist.

Collectors from as far away as Mexico, USA, UK, Mexico, Germany and UAE, as well as South Africa supported this year's edition and hundreds of people joined the panel discussions, master class and virtual studio visits with the finalists. *“EPI accomplished something so amazing and exceptional in the pandemic and brought such stimulation and joy to so many-- over thousands of miles!! .. I look forward to how I can help you raise EPI profile further next year. So please ENJOY this triumph for you, all EPI artists, EPI jurors and Strauss. I feel so honoured to have been part of the EPI community and had such fun!”* enthused one of the London collectors, who took part in EPI this year.



To be eligible for the prize, artists must be under 30, be permanently resident on the continent, and have painting as their primary discipline.

List of 2020 Finalists:

Agnes Waruguru b.1994 (Kenya)
Dorra Mahjoubi b.1990 (Tunisia)
Elias Mung'ora b.1992 (Kenya)
Emna Kahouaji b.1991 (Tunisia)
Eyasu Telayneh b. 1993 (Ethiopia)
Kylie Wentzel b. 1993 (South Africa)
Lincoln Mwangi b. 1995 (Kenya)
Sejiro Avoseh b. 1990 (Nigeria)
Tashinga Majiri b. 1993 (Zimbabwe)
Willy KarekeziMale b. 1993 (Rwanda)
Yolanda Mazwana b. 1996 (South Africa)
Kirubel Abebe b. 1992 (Ethiopia)
Peteros Ndunde b. 1996 (Kenya)
Selome Muleta b.1992 (Ethiopia)
George Masarira b. 1990 (Zimbabwe)
Thebe Phetogo b.1993 (Botswana)
Lwando Dlamini b.1992 (South Africa)

The past winners of EPI 2019 include

First Prize: Nelly Guambe (Mozambique)
Second Prize: Epheas Maposa (Zimbabwe)
Third Prize: Surafel Amare (Ethiopia).

Sponsors:

Strauss & Co, Art Africa Magazine, Ngoma NeHosho, Africa Art Galleries Association, Pro Helvetia Johannesburg/Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), AIR Angola, First Floor Gallery Harare, Oldenburg Wines, Guns & Rain, Kalashnikovv Gallery.

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Further Information & Images

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AAGA

African Art Galleries Association

ARTAFRICA



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ANGOLA AIR