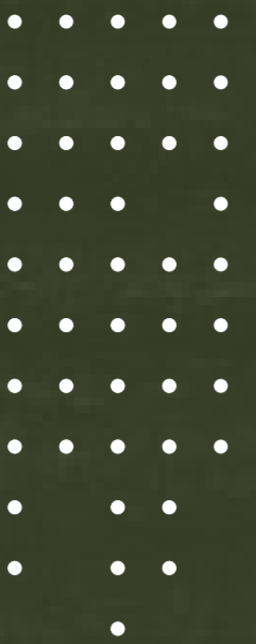




© Maheder Haileselassie



BAXXE HOME

Present Day and Archival Photographs
from Gedeo



An exhibition by
Maheder Haileselassie



NOV
21 ST

21 November 2019 - 31 January 2020
Opening Thursday, 21 November 2019 6:00 pm
Goethe-Institut Addis Abeba

During my ten days stay in August 2019 in Wenago, a woreda of the Gedeo zone, I had the opportunity to work with six young men and women around the idea of Home. We played with questions like, "What is home? What is most important about home? And how would one like to capture and remember the idea of home?" Of course most started with taking portraits of family, friends and then went on to cover daily life and vivid landscapes/land marks of their respective surrounding.

Home for many of us can be interpreted as a familiar space and a place of belongingness where one, in relative terms, can be both spiritually and physically free.

Among hundreds of photographs taken by the German anthropologist A.E. Jensen and his team in southern Ethiopia in the 1930s to 50s, we find relevant information from the past, even though from today's perspective many of their approaches are outdated. From the Gada system grade transfer to market scenes and traditional clothing of the time, Jensen's photographs provide us with the opportunity of learning a great deal about disappearing traditions, changing customs and both societal and governmental structures that were prominent for the period.

However, activating the archives involves not only unraveling past information but also questioning the archive as an object of interest as well. Jensen and his team took not only photographs but also prehistoric steles that signify history, identity and place. Some of these steles, currently found in a storage of the Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt, can be seen standing and surrounded with bushes in some of Jensen's archived photographs taken in Gedeo. As part of addressing this, a series of double exposures are made by re-photographing the steles in their current state in Frankfurt and showing the new found "names" (museum inventory numbers) for them.

The present day photographs are works of Abraham Tilahun, Asrat Zewde, Bethlehem Abera, Birhan Bayu, Hiwot Dawit, Petros Worku and myself. Through our works and the photographs from the archive, a negotiation of the past-present and an outsider-insider view takes place. In this sense, "Baxxe + Home" is a middle ground where all of us who took photographs brought a level of self-awareness, a portrait of a community and for the audience, hopefully a unique reflection and relationship of its own.

Maheder Haileselassie
mahederhaile@gmail.com
November 2019



© Birhan Bayu



© Petros Worku



© Abraham Tilahun



© Asrat Zewde



© Hiwot Dawit



© Bethlehem Abera

ባጤ፣የትውልድ ቀየ

ባላለፍነው ነሐሴ ወር ወናን በምትባለው የጊደሌ ዞን ወረዳ ውስጥ በነበረኝ የዐሥር ቀናት ቆይታ ከስድስት ወጣት ወንዶችና ሴቶች ጋር በትውልድ ቀዩ ሐሳብ ዙሪያ የመሥራት ዕድሉ ነበረኝ። በቆይታችን፣ የትውልድ ቀየ ምንድነው? ቀየን በተመለከተ እጅግ ጠቃሚው ነገር ምንድነው? እንድ ሰው ከቀየው ጋ ተያያዥ የሆኑ ሀሳቦችና ምሥሎችን እንዴት ማስታወሻና በካሜራው ማስቀረት ይፈልጋል? የሚሉት ጥያቄዎችን አንስተናል። በርግጥ አብዛኛዎቹ የቤተሰብና የጓደኛ ጩታ በማግኘት ገምጊው የቀየቸውን የልሳት ተዕለት ሕይወት እንዲሁም መልካ አምድር ወደመቅረድ አምርተዋል።

ለአብዛኛዎችን የትውልድና የመኖሪያ ቀየ ከሌሎች ስፍራዎች በእንዳይወቁት በአካልና በመንፈስ ነጻ የምንገኝበት የባለቤትነት ጥበቅ ስሜታዊ ትስስርና ቁርኝት የሚሰማን ተለምዶ በታሰብናል ተደርጎ ሊተረጎም ይችላል።

ጆርጃማዊው የነገረ ሱብላ ባለሙያ (አንትሮፖሎጂስት) ኤ.ሊ.ጄንስን ከቡድኑ ጋር በመገኘን ከ1930ዎቹ እስከ 1950ዎቹ ድረስ በደቡብ ኢትዮጵያ ቆይታቸው ወቅት ካነሳቸው በመቶዎች የሚቆጠሩ ፎቶዎች፣ምንም እንኳን በእኛን መነጻር ስታይቶ ቆይታቸው ወቅት ካነሳቸው ጊዜ ያለፈበት ቢገኝም፣ስለሌሎች ጊዜ ጠቃሚ የገኘ መረጃን እና ማሳሰቢያ፣የገዳ የገዳ ሥርዐት የሥልጣን ሽግግር እንሥቶ እስከ የገበያ ትዕይንቶች እና የአለባቤ ዘይቤዎች ድረስ፣የጄንስን ፎቶዎች እየጠፉ ለሌላ ባህሎች፣ተለዋዋጭ ስለገኙት ባህላዊ ዘልማዶች እንዲሁም በዚያ ዘመን ገናና ስለነበሩ ማንበረሰባዊ እና መንግሥታዊ መዋቅሮች ብዙ የምንማርበትን ዕድል ይሰጡናል።

ገኛም የፎቶግራፍ ማንደሮቹንና መዛግብቱን ከጥቅም ላይ ለማዋል ለታሪክ ጠቃሚ መረጃዎች ለማግኘት መጠቀም ብቻ ሳይሆን ስንዶቹን በራሳቸው ዋና የትኩረት ማእከል አድርጎ መመርመር እና መጠየቅም ያስፈልጋል።ጄንስንና በድኑ ከጊደሌና ሌሎች የኢትዮጵያ ከፍሎች ፎቶዎችን ብቻ ሳይሆን እኛን በፍራንክፈርቱ ቁልት-ኩፋሪን መዘየም ውስጥ የሚገኙ ጥንታዊ ትክል ድንጋዮችንም ወስደዋል። እነዚህ ጥንታዊ ትክል ድንጋዮች ከነበሩባቸው በታዎች ከመሣታቸውና ወደ ውጭ ማር ከመወለዳቸው በፊት በጄንስን የዚያ ዘመን ፎቶዎች ውስጥ ቆይተው ባቀጥቶ ለእንደተከበሩ ይታያሉ። ይኸን እኛንም ለመስጠት፣ትክል ድንጋዮቹን አሁን መዘየም ውስጥ በሚገኙበት ሁኔታ እንደገና ፎቶ በማንግት እና የተሰየመላቸውን ዕዲስ ስም(የተመዘገቡበት ተፋ ቁጥር) ጎልተው እንዲታዩ በማድረግ ለአይታ ቀርበዋል።

የቅርብ ጊዜ ፎቶግራፎቹ የአብርሃም ጥላኸን፣የዐሥራት ዘውዴ፣የቤተልሌም አበራ-የብርሃን ባዩ፣የሕይወት ዳዊት፣የጌጥሮስ ወርቁ እና የሌሌ ናቸው። የኛ ሥራዎች ከፎቶ ማንደሮች ከተገኙ የቆዩ ፎቶግራፎች ጋር በመተናኛት ውስጥዋና ውጭዋ ምልክታን አግምረው በትላንት እና በዛሬው ዘመን መካከል ምናባዊ ንግግርን እና ተዋሥኦን እንደሚፈጥሩ ይታሰባል። በዚህ መልኩ ባጤ፣የትውልድ ቀዩ በተወሰነ መልኩ የራስ ግንዛቤን ያዳበርንበት እና ማንበረሰዋ ምስልን የሠውንበት፣ ለተመልካቹ ደግሞ ስሜታዊ እና ሐሳባዊ ትስስርን የምገፈጥርበት እማካይ ማዕቀፍ ይሆናል ብለን ተስተካ እናደርጋለን።

ማንደረ ኃይለሥላሴ
ኅዳር 2012 ዓ.ም

ጥቂት ስለ ፕሮጀክቱ

ማንደረ ኃይለሥላሴ በመጋቢት 2011 ዓ.ም. እንዲሁም በድጋሚ የቅርስ ጥበቃ ባለሙያ ከገኘው አበል አሰፋ ጋር በመገኘት በግንቦት 2011 ዓ.ም. በጎተ ኢንስቲትዩት ግብጥ በፍራንክፈርቱ ውስጥ የሚገኘውንና በባህላዊ የነገረ ሱብላ(Cultural Anthropology) ጉዳዮች ላይ ጥናትና ምርምር በማካከሉ የሚታወቀውን የፍሮቤንዳስ ኢንስቲትዩት ጎብኝታላች። ይኼ የፍሮቤንዳስ ኢንስቲትዩት በዋነኛነት በነገረ ሱብላ ተመራማሪዎች(አንትሮፖሎጂስቶች) ከ1930 እስከ 1990 ዎቹ ዓመታት ድረስ ከደቡብ ኢትዮጵያ የተነሱ 15,000 ፎቶዎች ይገኙበታል። በተቆሙ ጉብኝታቸው ወቅት ማንደረ እና አበል እነዚህን ፎቶዎች፣ፈልጦች እና ተያያዥ ሰነዶችና መዛግብት ጊዜ ወሰደው ተመልከተዋል። የማንደረ ባጤ፣የትውልድ ቀየ በሚለው ፅንሰ ሐሳብ ላይ በቤቤይንት የሚያተኩረው የፎቶ ሰውደ ርእይ ሐሳብ ጥንስስ የሚገምግሚው ከዚህ ገደብ የፎቶ ሱብስብ ምልክታ ነው።

ማንደረ በመቀጠል ወደ ጊደሌ ዞን በመጓዝ የዙሃ ነጻሪዎች ከሆኑ ስድስት ወጣት ወንዶች እና ሴቶች ጋር በትውልድ ቀየ ፅንሰ ሐሳብ ላይ ለሳምንት ያኸል በመሥራትና በዚህ ርእስ ጉዳይ ላይ የሚያጠጉጉ የፍሮቤንዳስ ኢንስቲትዩት ፎቶዎችና ፈልጦችን እንዲሁም ተያያዥ የተቋሙን ሰነዶችና መዛግብት በመመልከት አሳልፋላች።

ለዚህ ሰውደ ርእይ እውን መገኘት ድጋፍ ያደረጉትን የጊደሌ ዞን ባህል፣ቱሪዝም እና ስፖርት ቢሮ፣የወናን ወረዳን እንዲሁም የቅርስ ጥናትና ጥበቃ ባለሥልጣንን እናመሰግናለን።

About the project

Following an invitation by the Goethe-Institut, Maheder Haileselassie visited the Frobenius Institute for research. in Cultural Anthropology in Frankfurt, Germany, in March 2019 and again in May 2019 along with Abel Assefa, a heritage manager and conservator. The Frobenius Institute has a collection of around 15,000 photographs mainly from the southern part of Ethiopia that were taken by anthropologists who did research there between the 1930s and 1990s. During the visit, Maheder and Abel looked at these photographs, videos and other archival material of the anthropologists out of which the idea of working around the concept of "Home" was born.

Maheder then travelled to the Gedeo Zone to meet with six young men and women and spend a week working on the idea of a home and viewing photos and films from the Frobenius Archive together.

A great thank you goes to Gedeo Zone Culture, Tourism and Sport Bureau, Wenago Woreda and ARCC (Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage) for the support they provided during the realization of this exhibition.

Founded in 1898 by Leo Frobenius, the Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology is Germany's oldest research institute for cultural anthropology. Between 1934 and 1994, one of the Institute's regional focuses was in southern Ethiopia (especially Konso, Sidama, Wolayta, Borana, Gedeo and today's South Omo Zone). Originating from this period, the insti-tute houses rich archives and collections on Ethiopian studies. The researchers were particularly interested in visual documentation, and trained artists accompanied the expeditions. The visual collection of around 20,000 photographs and drawings is a unique relic from this period.

Since 2010, the Institute has again taken up current research in Ethiopia. In recent years, the Institute has also made great efforts to record the archive materials in databases, digitize them and discuss them critically with Ethiopian colleagues. It is an important concern of the Institute to pass on its large photo collection to institutions, researchers and source communities in Ethiopia. The current exhibition, "Baxxe + Home", is the third joint project with the Goethe-Institut Addis Abeba to share the photos with the Ethiopian public.

www.frobenius-institut.de

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. Since 1962, the Goethe-Institut Addis Abeba has been promoting cultural exchange between Germany, Ethiopia and Europe. For over 50 years, the institute along with its African, European, Ethiopian and German partners, has been organizing and supporting a range of cul-tural programmes within Addis Abeba and parts of Ethiopia to foster intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

In the past 10 years the Goethe-Institut Addis Abeba launched and participated in different pro-jects in the fields of photography, documentation and archiving, connected with the ideas of memory, representation and identity. Examples are the network Centers of Learning for Photog-raphy in Africa (CLPA), several Photographers' Portfolio Meetings, the foundation of the Cen-ter for Photography in Ethiopia (CPE), the traveling project 'Shoa: A Geographical Passion', as well as an exhibition with vintage prints by Ethiopian photographer Johannes Haile in connec-tion with a workshop on photography, photographic archives and digitalization of analogue film.

For the "Baxxe + Home" project, Goethe-Institut Addis Abeba collaborated with Frobenius- Institut to foster access to archives and collections on Ethiopian studies in Germany for the au-dience in Ethiopia.

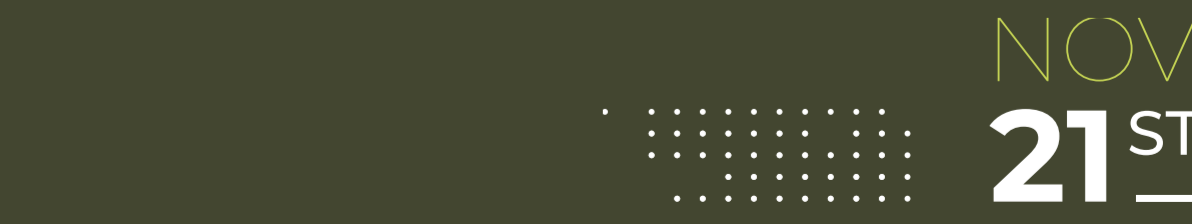
www.goethe.de/addisabeba



BAXXE + HOME

Present Day and Archival Photographs from Gedeo

An exhibition by Maheder Haileselassie



21 November 2019 - 31 January 2020
Opening Thursday, 21 November 2019 6:00 pm
Goethe-Institut Addis Abeba