



Ethiopian Historic Conservation Council

*In association with
African American Museum of
Art
Presents...*

*Ethiopian Millennium
Art & Crafts Exhibition*

*Opening June 29th all through July and
August of 2008*



Ethiopian Millennium Art & Crafts Exhibition

This Exhibition represents a wide array of traditional and modern paintings and drawings by Ethiopian artists as well as various arts and crafts by native artisans. This year being the Millennium in the Ethiopian calendar, where one should reflect on the past and make plans and commitments for the future, it is an appropriate time for the old and the new, the traditional and the a'vant-garde, to be juxtaposed and viewed together.

Four of the artists represented at the exhibition currently live in the US, and three of them right here in the Los Angeles area. The works of these artists too are varied in its use of media and seems to represent the span of Ethiopian artistic flavor from the historic and traditional to the out and out modern and leading edge.

A very common theme in many traditional Ethiopian paintings and arts is the biblical travel and visit of Queen Sheba to Jerusalem and her arrival at the Court of King Solomon. Ethiopian history and legend has it that the two became lovers and produced a son, Menelik the First, whose dynastic line of successors can be traced all the way down to the last Emperor, Hailesellasié. The story of that visit is found represented in more than one art piece in this Exhibit.

Various musical instruments are also represented in life size and in miniature: the kirar, the mesenko, and the begena, all traditional musical instruments made by Ethiopian native artisans. There are hand woven fabrics with designs of the Ethiopian Cross and other traditional motifs. There are also leather artifacts in this Exhibit, which is the result of long and arduous effort by many people, artists and private collectors, who were very kind to bring their art pieces to the museum, some for sale and some to be viewed only.

This Exhibit became possible when EHCC and MAAA met and agreed to make it happen. EHCC had the art and the connections to artists and private collectors while MAAA had the venue. We hope this will be the beginning of a long and successful relationship between these two entities, and that it will continue for many years to come as a yearly event.