

artist statement | Tewodross Melchishua

My work consists of a variety of mediums and genres including digital art/multimedia, design, animation, film/video, installation, sculpture and painting. However, there seems to be one underlying theme: rhythm or movement. As a digital artist, designer, filmmaker and animator, I am interested in preserving cultural memory; and to use visual narrative to communicate life experiences. These experiences are universal and it is my intention that they generate movement (rhythm) on many different levels.

For the last few years, I have been inspired by music, theatre and specifically the work and imagery of artists/filmmakers such as Ralph Bashki, Julie Taymor, Takshi Murakami, Keith Piper, Nam June Paik, Bill Viola, and Margot Lovejoy. I am intrigued by the relationships and connections between art/design, film and music (specifically jazz, hip hop, soul, reggae/dub and electronica). I enjoy working in digital art, video/film, because of the ability to transfer visual concepts easily and maintain the essence of light and sound.

Animation, motion graphics and digital art are my preferred mediums, however, I have been exploring ways to also incorporate traditional media (painting, sculpture, installation and design) with technology. Furthermore, I explore this media with the elements of sound (music), motion, image and text. It is through the integration of art with video/film and digital technology that I seek to affect my audience will “experience” my work rather than simply to passively observe it.

I enjoy working in digital video/film, because of the ability to transfer visual concepts easily and maintain the essence of light and sound. My most recent series of video art, installation and paintings is titled, *VIDEO JAZZ/VISUAL SOUL and one work specifically titled, “Funkymonk.”* This project takes an experimental approach by incorporating the mediums of painting with video and sound.

I would like to consider myself a “visual” deejay” who creates moving paintings. I seek to use art/design, digital video with animation to far surpass the way I have usually worked. The project will employ a unique approach to connecting the content/imagery to the music. However, the choices of sounds will dictate the images. I am following a theme but will allow my work to remain open to discovery. Through this series, I intend to further collaborate with local and international musicians, artists and deejays, to create a visual music through images and animation.

The legendary hip-hop group, Eric B and Rakim had an old hip-hop classic titled, “Move the Crowd.” I too, seek to move the crowd on not just the visual levels but others as well: mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I am interested in keeping the spirit moving. It is my desire to create a movement and to produce work that engages as well as informs.”

-Tewodross Melchishua

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