

At Work[©]

CHAPTER 06

Addis Ababa



This Catalogue was made by Yohannes 'Jay' Balcha
Email: atoyohannesbalcha@gmail.com

እንኳን ደህና መጡ / Welcome

It's more likely that you've been asked in your life where home is, but not what it is. Is it the room where you lay your head? Is home the continent on which you live? And a homeless woman, how would she answer to this?

In our homes, we exercise routine, find peace in familiarity, and execute prayers of sorts with our belongings. Still, the concept of home takes endless shapes in our hearts and minds, leaving impressions on our individual and collective sense of feeling welcomed and shunned. In the quest for discovering what home means at this point in time, we invite you to observe the works of this exhibition as a road-map of process and demonstration.

Though, here, you will witness the individual works of 21 Ethiopian youth, each piece is a result of a joint dialogue shared amongst the group, where five days were spent defining and refining our initial expressions of home. On sunny days, in lush gardens and basement libraries, together we lured the ideas out of our minds and mouths to be hollowed out and refilled with intent, with deliberation.

Many of the automatic definitions expressed covered home as the place we end our days, where we can find our mothers and loved ones, our comfort, and our favorite things. The positivity and ease conveyed in this decision is reflective of the Ethiopian practices of gratitude and simplicity. However, the occasion called for something more; a deeper look into the effect of where and how we see ourselves through the lens of where we are and where we can be.

Every day, we allowed the dialogue on home to run through us, affecting each individual's wish and purpose for their craft, and, for their home. Then began a fluid metamorphosis into how the movement of people in and out of our lives mold our physical and emotional homes; how geopolitics, religion, and socioeconomics are both real and surreal homes. How, frankly, that sense of comfort comes tightly packaged together with discomfort and rejection, the questioning and doubting of oneself, and the ugliness we seek to express but also keep hidden from others.

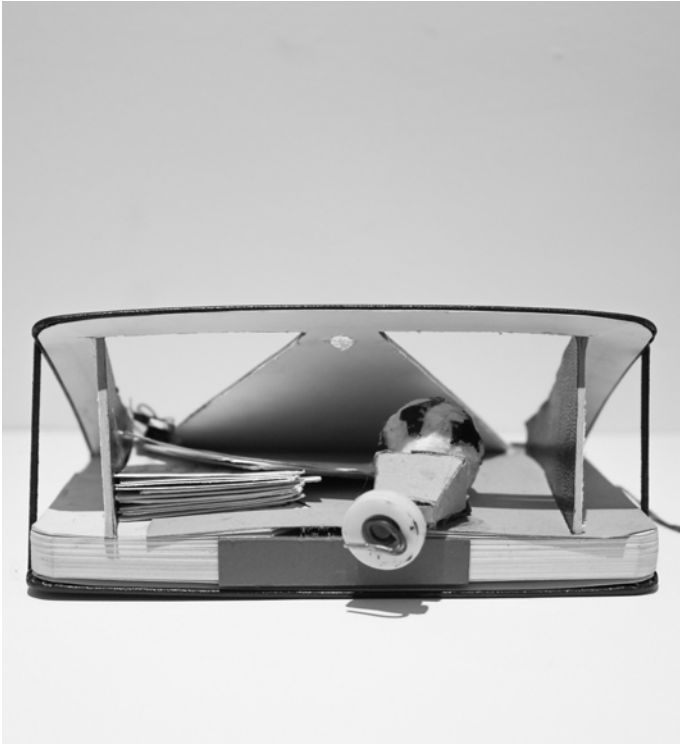
Though the question doesn't end with this exhibition, after grappling with it we have created pieces through which we have released and received certain intimacies. We spoke into our pieces and they spoke back. Home has manifested itself in each journal that has been torn apart, swallowed whole, and split in halves, quarters, and eighths. Homes built to stand, swing, and smash into pieces.

You are invited to witness the creative process of the youth, and get a glimpse into how at home they feel and how they feel at home. Consider what is Home for you, and the difficulty with that question depending on how deep you're fit to search. Welcome to our homes.

Name: Zena Moges

Title: Movement

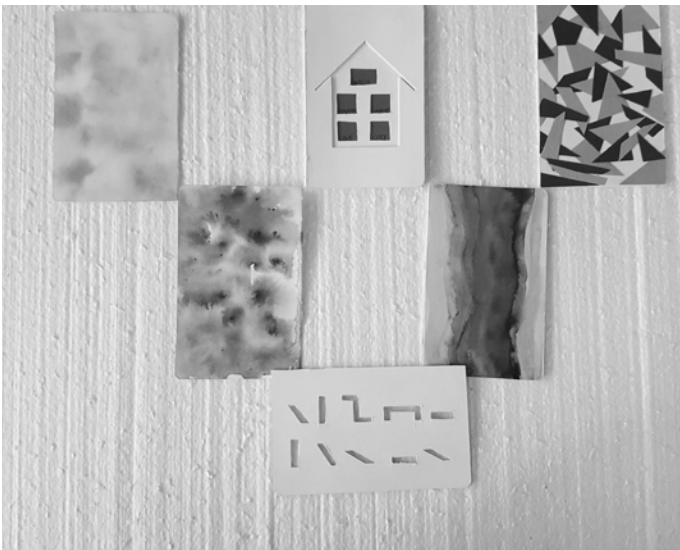
Description: My home is change by my movement, I can get my need in all world. world is creat for me so my home is all world.



Name: Sumeya

Title:

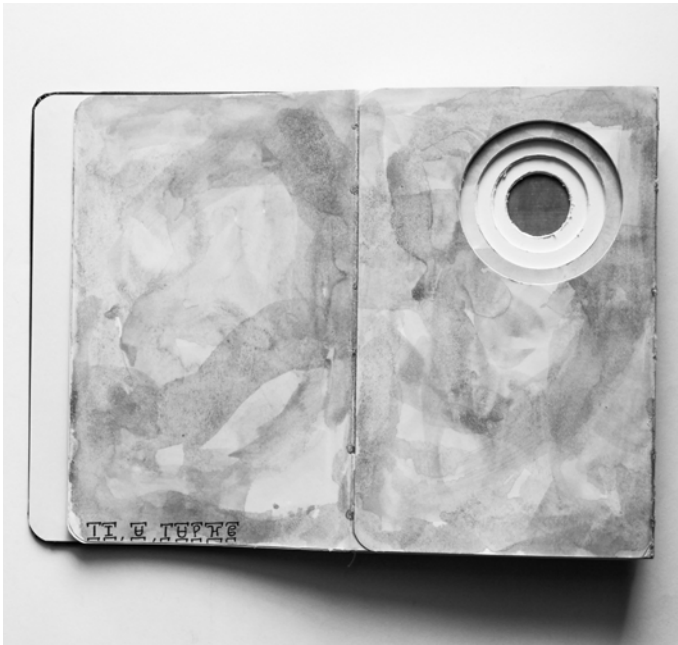
Description: home is my identity and family is my home. home is a place where i feel comfortable and cozy. it is the place that is most dear to my heart. my work shows the journey of what my home is.



Name: Tarik Tadese

Title: The Seeker

Description: Home is the feeling of belonging, whether to a place, a person or yourself. At times people and places make us feel at home and other times don't. But every now and then we see a glimpse of home that gives us the drive to keep going. Though I don't know when and where I'll find it, I'm still seeking my "home".



Name: Hailu Kifle

Project title: Finding home

Description: There is a mass process of urban redevelopment going in our cities, (Addis Abeba) whole section of the urban environment are being demolished and replaced by new buildings. Main attention is being given to commercial aspect & modernization

/convenience. Little attention is given to aesthetic aspect, despite the fact that it is important because of identity & the value of the properties themselves and the satisfaction of the inhabitants. In this process many peoples are disrespect & homeless. So my notebook is addressed the idea of sharing the pain of their homeless peoples. Because home for me is peoples safety (respect). Finally I enter the note book as a religious pocketbook that symbolizes the safe home.



Name: Aron Simeneh

Titel: Feel at home

Description: Home for me is a place where I'm comfortable and inspired to take a photo!! where ever I'm inspired to pick up my camera and take a photo that means I'm feeling at home



Hanna Minaye

Title: Ebb and Flow

Description: My affinity for home is bipolar. I aim to highlight the tumultuous and ugly nature of my homes both chosen and unchosen, as well as criticise the question "What is Home?" For each time I have felt unwelcome, I have found home ten times over. Home is the balance between wins and gains. Simultaneously, it feels as though Home and I take turns in disowning one another. Yet, we are fluid, and will find each other again.

Medium:

Watercolor & ink
Moleskine journal
Brads and thread



Yonas Tadesse

Title -A True Lie

Description: Home for me is what I carry with me on every journey life takes me, I create it where ever go, it's the connection with the people around me. The urge to create the atmosphere through interaction with the people I feel most comfortable with. Home is where there is equal amount of acceptance and rejection. It has a feel of limitation. Last but not least home is where I can't be fully myself.

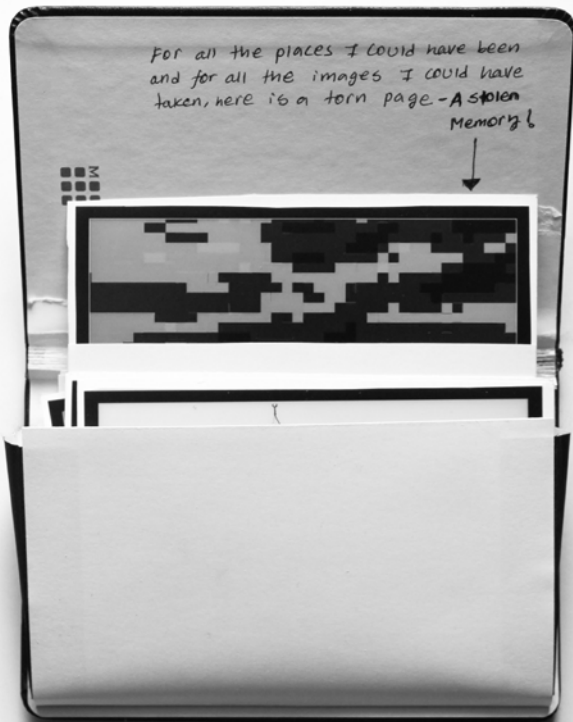
Finding my true home has set me free to finding my true self.

Name: Mahlet Birhanu

Title : Rediscovering Home

Description: In this notebook, I tried to display the concept of home as I have experienced it after a journey away from my home country. In 2014, I went to Norway and lived there for two years. As it was my first time to travel outside of Ethiopia, it was a completely new experience. Throughout my two years stay, I interacted with people from different parts of the world and I realized the misconceptions they have about Ethiopia. I was not in a position to clear all those misconceptions since I was not equipped with the necessary knowledge about my country. The greatest lesson my journey taught me is to get rid of what I thought I knew and begin rediscover my country in a different perspective.





Name: Maheder Haileselassie

Project Name: Nostalgia & Forbidden Stories

Description: The Notebook is my gallery. The pages are my exhibition.

Nostalgia is for all those feelings and memories of home. Those scattered dots that always pulls me in to remind me of the power of distance.

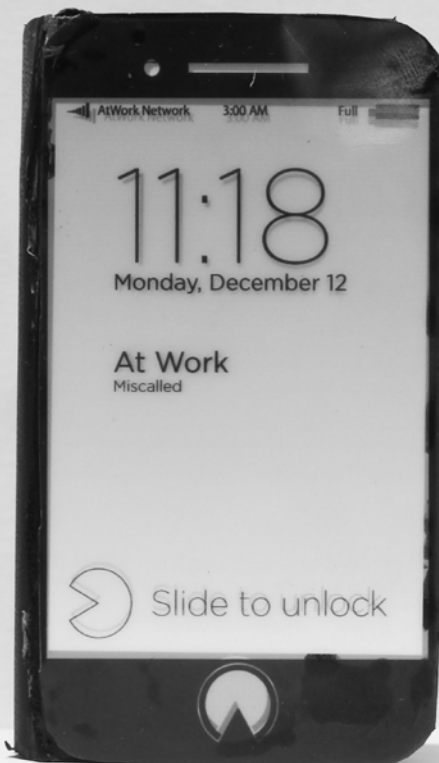
Forbidden stories are for those stories I experienced myself, I heard and I longed to photograph but couldn't. (perhaps because my hands are tied up and my mouth shut) I'm a photographer and I do own a camera. But since I don't use it to make images, it feels like the photographer in me seize to exist. So for now, I'm a photographer who simply writes captions.

Name: Alemu Engida (Alex)

Title : Rediscovering Home

Description: My phone is my home

There's a saying that goes "home is where the hearts goes" I asked my self where home is to me. As amusing as it may be, my phone is my home. It's always with me; when I'm asleep, where ever I go. My phone connects me to my family and friends. It's my greatest means of doing business too. I also keep the notes of my thoughts; my inspiration, memories on it. I surf the net and explore the world; It keeps me occupied indeed. To me, my phone is what connects me to the world in numerous ways. It amuses me how an object can be home to oneself, yet somehow I am very dependent on it. I work with it, talk with it and it's my Walkman to keep me entertained and calm. I keep it charged to keep it alive for My phone is indeed my electronic buddy!

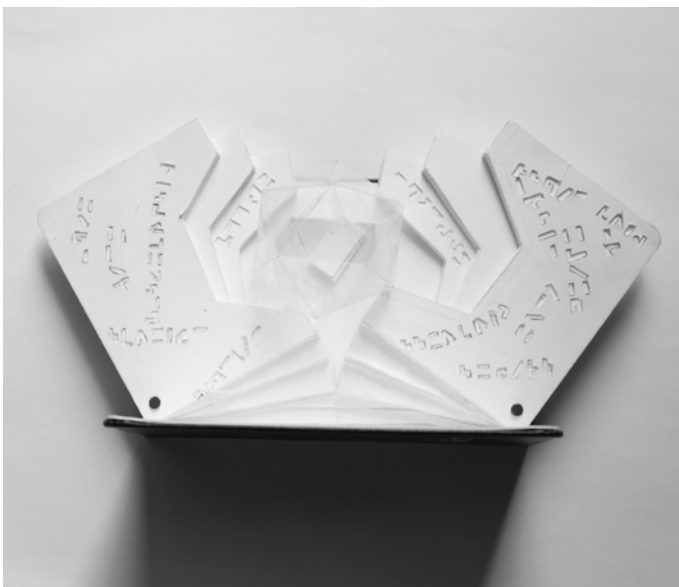




Name: Eyoeal Kefyalew

Title: Conflict

Description: In the realm of The Past, present and the coming future there always exists a conflict of ideas. This teaches us one thing about ourselves that we can't be certain about our life but it's a process. Some ideas we had about ourselves and our surrounding will change and some will continue to exist. But one thing is for certain the disappearance of the ideas will not go unnoticed but rather shape us in their own way.



Nardos Tamirat

Title- The Onion

Description: I first felt home was a space that liberates and frees you, but i later came to realize for me home is where i am a caged bird. And as the prisoner often develops a connection with the captor, home can become a space that confines you, it can be the prison disguised as the sanctuary. enabling you to reveal your true self only to have you put on layers as you leave it.



Nathaniel Grumneh

Title - Decisions

Description: Every decision requires energy ,in this work the decisions ,noted by the layers ,are there to show how all the decisions are accumulated to make one big energy

Name: Vicky Kassahun

Title: Home

Description: Home for me is 2 places geographically, Greece and Ethiopia. But it's infinite emotionally. These are some pieces of my life that represent my home.





Name: Ruth Bekele

Title: Memories

Description: Home for me can not be defined by a space but rather by the memories I had in that space. To call that place my home I should have something to relate to, which could be friends, family, moments, and feelings. On my piece i wanted to depict the missing pieces of our memories by punching holes in the screen that displays them.



Abel Tamru

Title: Life in Addis

Description: Home is where my life is begin at and my home is "sheger" at Ethiopia and so what show you on this note book is how the life style looks difference between to the rich people's and poor people's . Ethiopia is home for us. As my own opinion this is what does Ethiopia means. Home is not what's you dream it or wish it hut the place where you are living at .



Name: Yohannes 'Jay' Balcha

Title: Addition and Subtraction

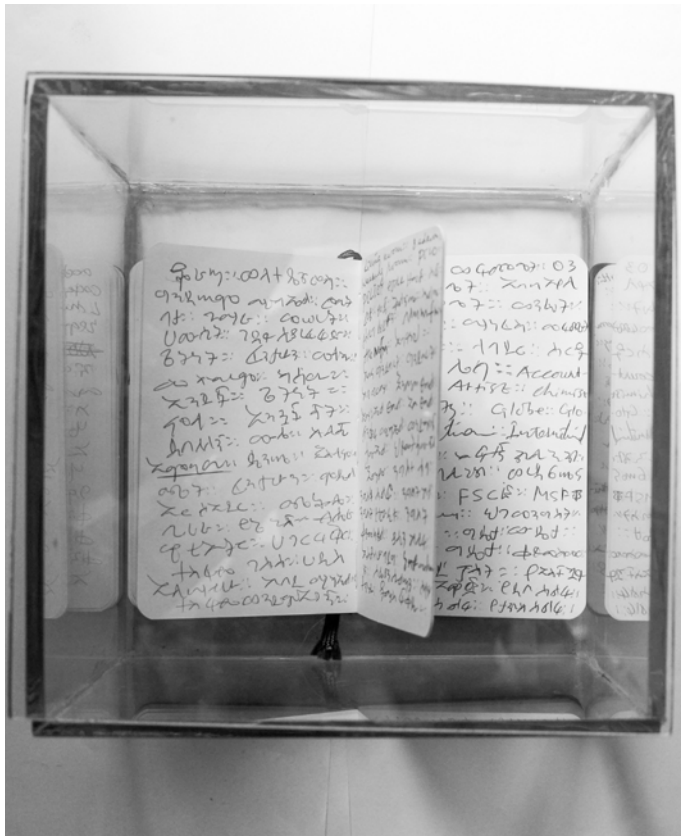
Description: I feel what makes a house a home isn't the structure that encloses it but rather the people and objects in it. By adding or taking out different pieces you can lose or find the essence that makes a home. By flipping through the pages of the notebooks you can fully understand what changes make my home.



Name: Brook Zerai Mengistu

Title: The Sacred Pilgrimage

Description: HOME is a sacred space within. If we get in tune with it there will be no war within and per cause and effect no war without. No conflict will stand a chance in this state of mind, as our sole concern will be the outpouring of Love. If individuals heal then one by one relationships, families, nations, and Nature will follow. After all isn't it all ONE? It is time we go HOME and begin operating from that space.



Name: Naod Lemma

Titel: Free-fall

Description: Home is like a liquid space that builds up by acceptance and belonging.

Every interaction to this fluidity may affect the memory to recall the past.

This is my past and present home; this home builds with fragility and vulnerability.

Name: Abinet Teshome

Title: "Real home"

Description: My note has 4 content.'

On the first page, there is the physical home where we dwell.

On the second page, it shows the feeling and the times we spend in life.

On the third page, it shows the sad part of life, which is death.

On the fourth page, there's another home we haven't seen. It's called heaven and I call that a Real Home.





Name: Emanuel Tegene

Title: Kobet

Description: People from bete Isreal leave and sell there home from the coun-try side to make there journey to Isreal. But before leaving Ethiopia they come to addis Ababa and wait to be taken to the prom-ised land. The wait may take from a couple of month to years. While they wait to make ends meet they start making and selling Pottery.

They sell there homes and wait for a new home.