

Palette of Dreams

Eritrean Painter Fetsum Teclamarium Inspires a New Generation of Artists



Fetsum Teclamarium

A gift from childhood is where Fetsum believes he acquired his love of painting. The shapes and colours of the flowers, seeing nature and using his senses were the starting point of his journey as an artist. His persistence in his art form made people recognize his talent as early as 5 years of age. Later, he tried to study professionally, but there was no opportunity where he grew up. He travelled to various countries and finally settled in Israel, where he studied art and obtained his Master's class for painting and drawing.

"Life has blessed me and continues to bless me with teachers who taught me many important lessons. I infuse all this knowledge and wisdom into my art with purpose and beauty"

Being a mathematics and physics teacher enabled Fetsum also to have the experience of teaching. He instructs children in drawing and painting and knows how to use what he was taught. The most important point of teaching is "the more you share, the more you get." After leaving Toronto, Fetsum started a home-based art school called Pallet Classical Drawing and Painting Studio in Edmonton,

where he teaches students of different ages and backgrounds.

Most exhibitions are his student's artwork – ages seven and older – which is very satisfying. Art heals and brings positive mental health to the community. He is proud of the work of his students.

Fetsum's most significant accomplishments and challenges started as a child in Keren, Eritrea. He wanted to show others the beauty he saw in his paintings. His first exhibition was successful. In Israel, he also did well and sold all his paintings. His latest edition has been in Edmonton, where the art world is different, but he continues to work and compete in some exhibits. The Art Foundation of Alberta accepted his paintings. All in all, his paintings sell well and connect with the memories of Africans. Many appreciate his art because he paints still-life objects and landscapes in the classic tradition.

One of the challenges Fetsum has encountered in Edmonton is being an immigrant. He is the father of 4 children and art is its own challenge. He has no sponsors; however, his studio space accommodates students who take drawing and painting classes in his home. He feels that Edmonton needs more appreciation for art and connection to other artists. There was no art community in Tel Aviv; however, most of the time, people bought his art. Toronto and Vancouver were his

choices as well as New York; however, he is teaching 60-70 students in Edmonton.

Fetsum has been training assistants for a few years, but his plan for the next 5 years is to have an Art Foundation and Studio and that people will benefit from the skills he teaches. Art has many benefits for children and the elderly. He needs space and teachers to take students into their next skill levels. He also teaches online to students in Africa, Europe and all over the world. His dream is to have an Art Institute in Edmonton one day.

