

SEREN

MAGAZINE

06 WEGAHTA TSEHAYE

Interview with Wegahta Tsehaye
known by her name, Alba.

Winta Assefa
Sand Artist

Ashu Tesfaye
visual artist



06

Interview with
painter Wegahta
Tsehaye



04

dripping with
being new.



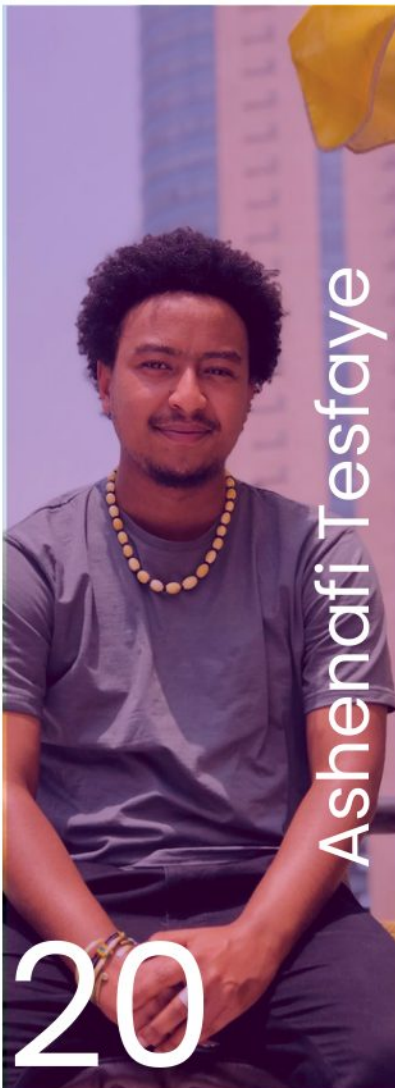
15

meet Winta, a
sand artist

CONT

EVENTS

Meet Ashu, a visual
artist



An article by Liya



the most
anticipated movies
of 2023



Beamlak Fekadu

DRIPPING WITH

Being New

DRIPPING WITH

BEING NEW

Am I the only one who's giddy?
Or are you also wishing for something pretty?
Yeah! And this is all because it's new year!
A new blessed year, pristine without an ounce of fear.
Didn't you hear? It really is another year!
New beginnings to cheer for,
new hopes to gear up,
Brand new days, a lot more;
New fresh memories to add up,
More fortunes in this new year;
You will have in your life,
for everyone you prayed for, for everything you asked for,
resolve for what troubled you,
answers for what conflicted you.
More opportunities, more chances...
Because it's a whole 2015, full of unlived scenes...
We believe to be warm, healthy and satisfying,
We're rejoicing!!!

Merry 2015.

Interview with

Wegahta Tsehaye

“

The women in my art works reflects the women I grew up around, their love, strength, and dignity.

Who is **WEGAHTA?**



My name is Wegahta Tsehay. People call me Alba; I am a self-taught painter based in Norway. Born and raised in Asmara, Eritrea. I'm a wife to the most humble and brave man, a mommy to a 5-year-old princess, daughter of the strongest couple, a sister, and a good friend.

When I am not creating my art, I work as a medical secretary/nurse and French teacher. I incorporate acrylic bright colours, mandala details and traditional clothing prints in my artwork to show the vibrancy of my culture.



Tell us how you've developed your art career so far?

I developed my art career by teaching my self new techniques and new art styles. Even though I am certain now, which type art is my style, but I challenge myself to learn new thing every day. Doing commissions for portrait painting for customers has also played a role in to developing my hobby to career.

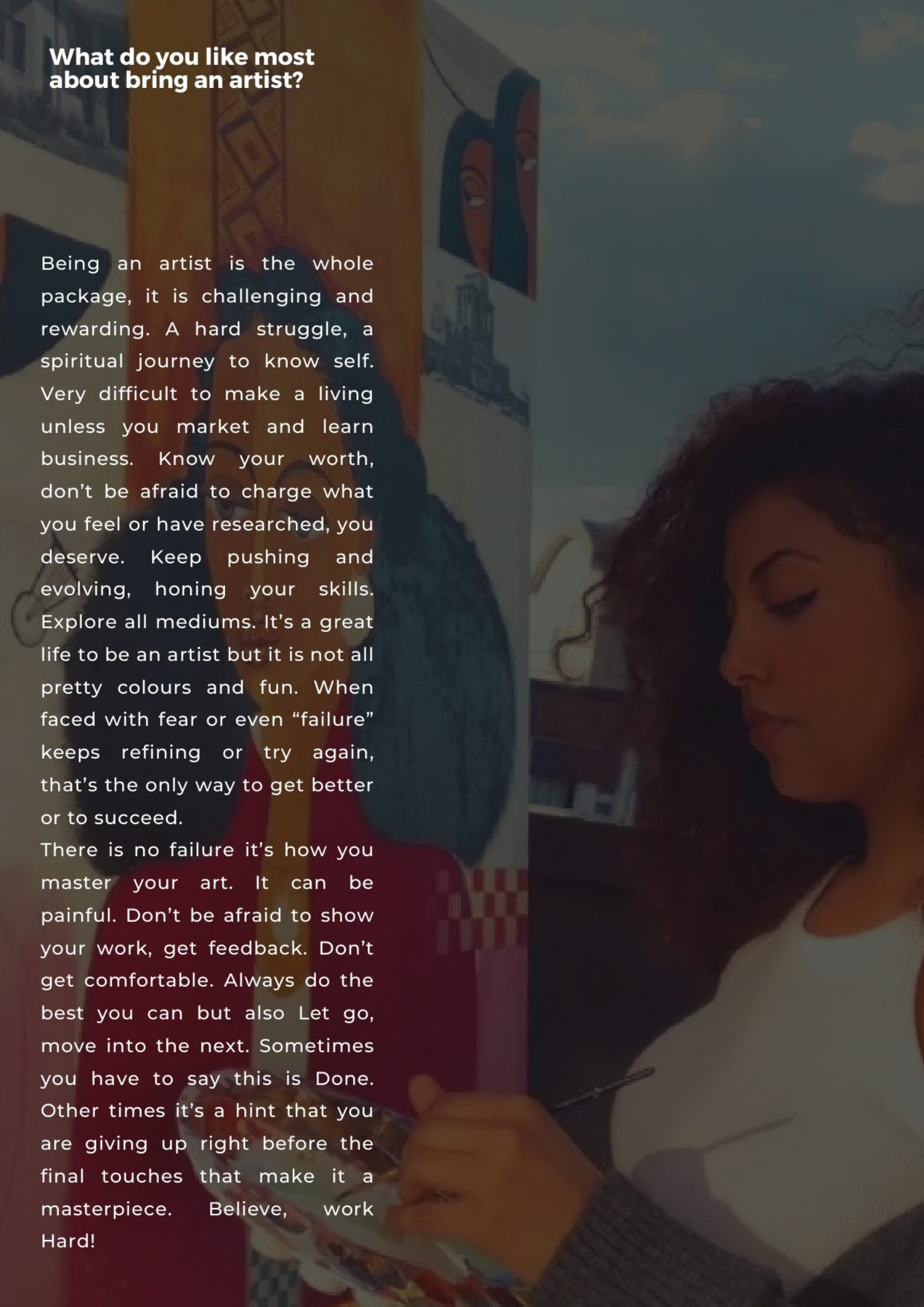
You were born in Eriteria then moved to Sudan and then to Norway, can you tell us about your childhood life ?

I grew up in a very supportive family my entire life. Especially my big sister Hermon, she's the reason I am who I am today. She saw the talent; I couldn't see and feel in myself. She truly believed on me. I started sketching when I was around 4 years old. When I got older my sister used to take me to exhibitions and art competitions. Being surrounded by art everyday made feel like it is woven into the fibres of my being.

What do you like most about being an artist?

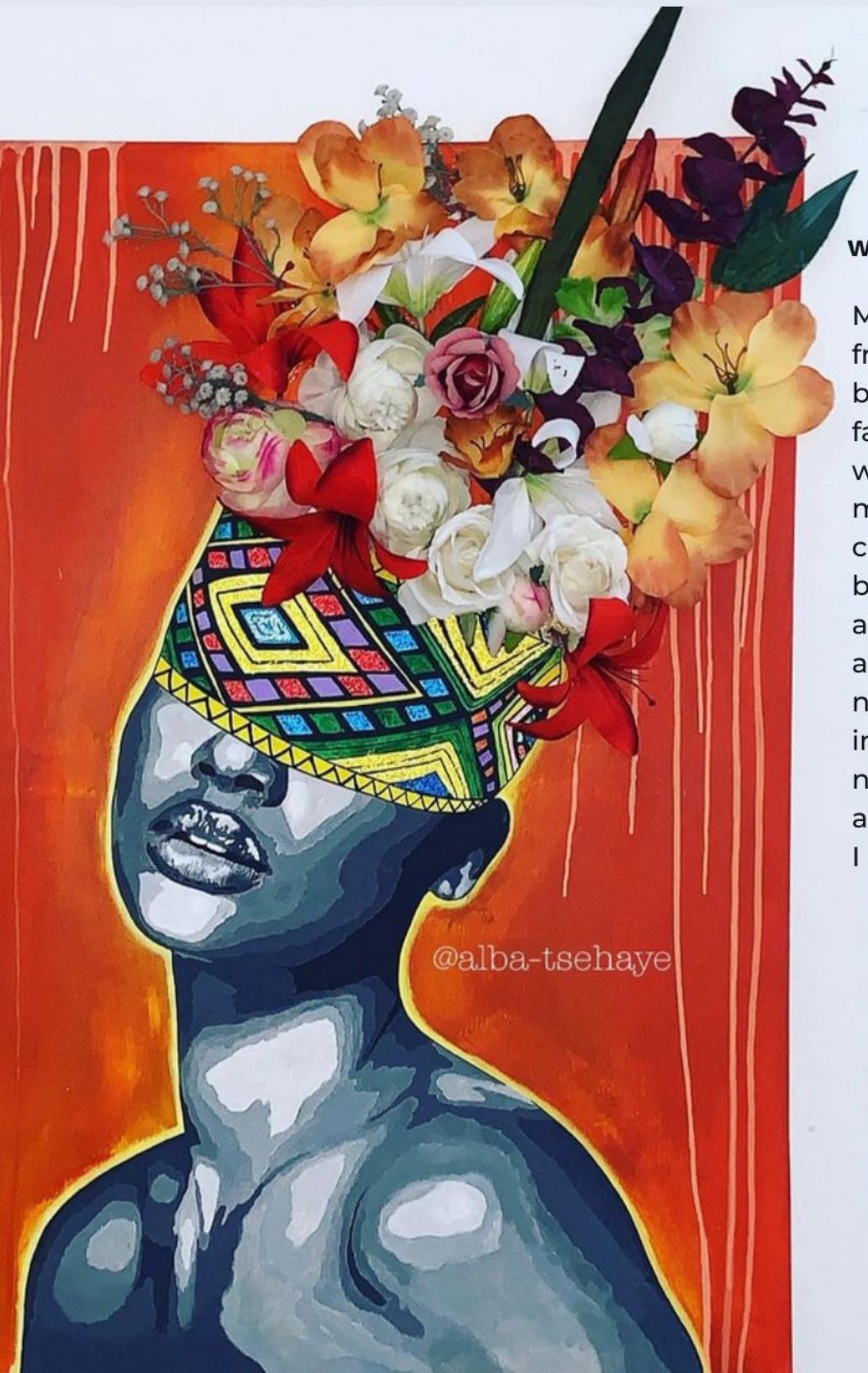
Being an artist is the whole package, it is challenging and rewarding. A hard struggle, a spiritual journey to know self. Very difficult to make a living unless you market and learn business. Know your worth, don't be afraid to charge what you feel or have researched, you deserve. Keep pushing and evolving, honing your skills. Explore all mediums. It's a great life to be an artist but it is not all pretty colours and fun. When faced with fear or even "failure" keeps refining or try again, that's the only way to get better or to succeed.

There is no failure it's how you master your art. It can be painful. Don't be afraid to show your work, get feedback. Don't get comfortable. Always do the best you can but also Let go, move into the next. Sometimes you have to say this is Done. Other times it's a hint that you are giving up right before the final touches that make it a masterpiece. Believe, work Hard!



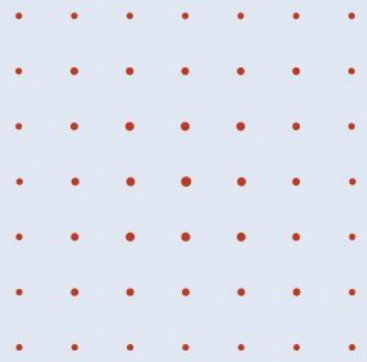
What inspired most of your art works? we see most of your works feature women and what do these works aim to say?

Growing up I was surrounded by many strong women. They taught me my culture, tradition, and norms. Coming from that I believe a woman have a powerful role in a society. The women in my art works reflects the women I grew up around, their love, strength, and dignity.



where do you find inspiration?

My inspirations come always from my surrounding, it might be a conversation with my family, a situation in my workplace, a music video/ movie, nature and of course my childhood and tradition. I believe God is the greatest artist, all mankind creations and inventions are copied from nature. The tones and textures in the sunset, flowers are just not basic colours. The more I am out in the nature, the more I get inspired.



What's the best piece of art
you've created

THE PRAYER



One of my favourite art pieces so far is The Prayer. It is 100*70 cm acrylic painting. The painting is based on biblical scripture 1 Peter 5:7 "[Throw all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you](#)". It is about an elderly woman praying to God, her face is glowing and looks peaceful. Every time I see that piece it simply gives me inner peace.



SOME WORKS OF
WEGAHTA TSEHAYE



LIYA

Mekonnen

What does it take to be cruel? What does it take to stand in front of a person inflecting pain on another unflinchingly? It takes hurt, self-hatred, embarrassment and the loss of the will to go on. I can't say that I feel sorry for every man or women made into a monster by society but I do stop to think how much pain they are feeling to cause this much raucous.

A new year brings hope, a fresh plate to start with and to rewrite one's story. A story cannot be one dimensional and the main character can interpret it as he/she wishes to.

But, however the story is told, one needs to like it. So, that is what I am trying to do.

Meaning is a human contract, made in fear of uncertainty. It seems to be that life is a long ambiguous road made for a person to find the religion or life principles he would like to cling to. To live is to survive in the ambiguity and find the days you feel it in your heart to know what is true.

I had spent the last year coming to agree with these ideas. There is a sense of freedom that comes with this acceptance. There isn't a secret of life. I exist in the same way as others and I am not watched at like a main character in a movie. There would not be a meant to be or an act of fate unless I believe in it. There is freedom and wisdom from accepting that I do not know and there isn't a time limit set for me to. There is also purpose and by fulfilling that comes, what I believe is true happiness.

The binary thoughts of good vs. evil are like stories told to comfort children, but for adults. There is a strong fear of failure in everyone. We fall into victim mindsets sometimes to convince ourselves that we are indeed the good people in our situations. And, for us to be the good force we villainies other people, systems or philosophies. I do not believe in trying to play the hero because heroes exist in comparison. They need foil characters to be known but we need to think of ourselves as dependent and dependable individuals with our own strong value system. And that should not be solely to do what is right to be named a hero.

The greatest relationship is one you have with yourself. As children we learn about relationships we develop our attachment styles from that. That could include how we feel about ourselves. Self-love is an integral practice that can determine the quality of a person's life. It is a renewable fuel that drives the entire experience. I advise everyone to find ways to connect to your inner child and give the unconditional love a parent would to yourself. Self-love teaches you how to love others and to know how to understand your world of emotions.

I hope that this year we could all try to be introspective and more open minded. We all need to value personal development and feel responsible to ourselves to achieve our fullest potentials. We should be ready to be students of life at every moment and to teach when needed to.

Winta Assefa

Sand Artist

*I've been drawing
with sand since I saw
a girl my age do it on
Arabs Got Talent.*

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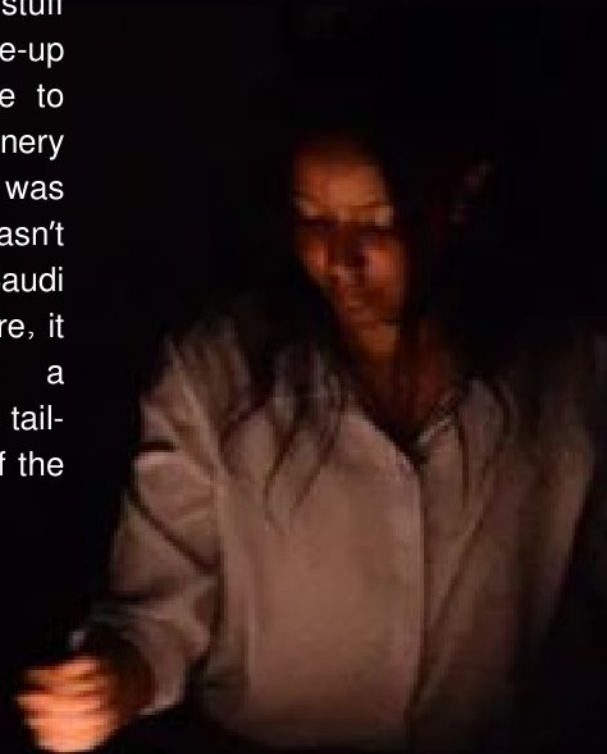


Winta



Please tell us about yourself and your background. You were raised in Saudi Arabia, and currently, you're living in Ethiopia. Share with us how that journey was.

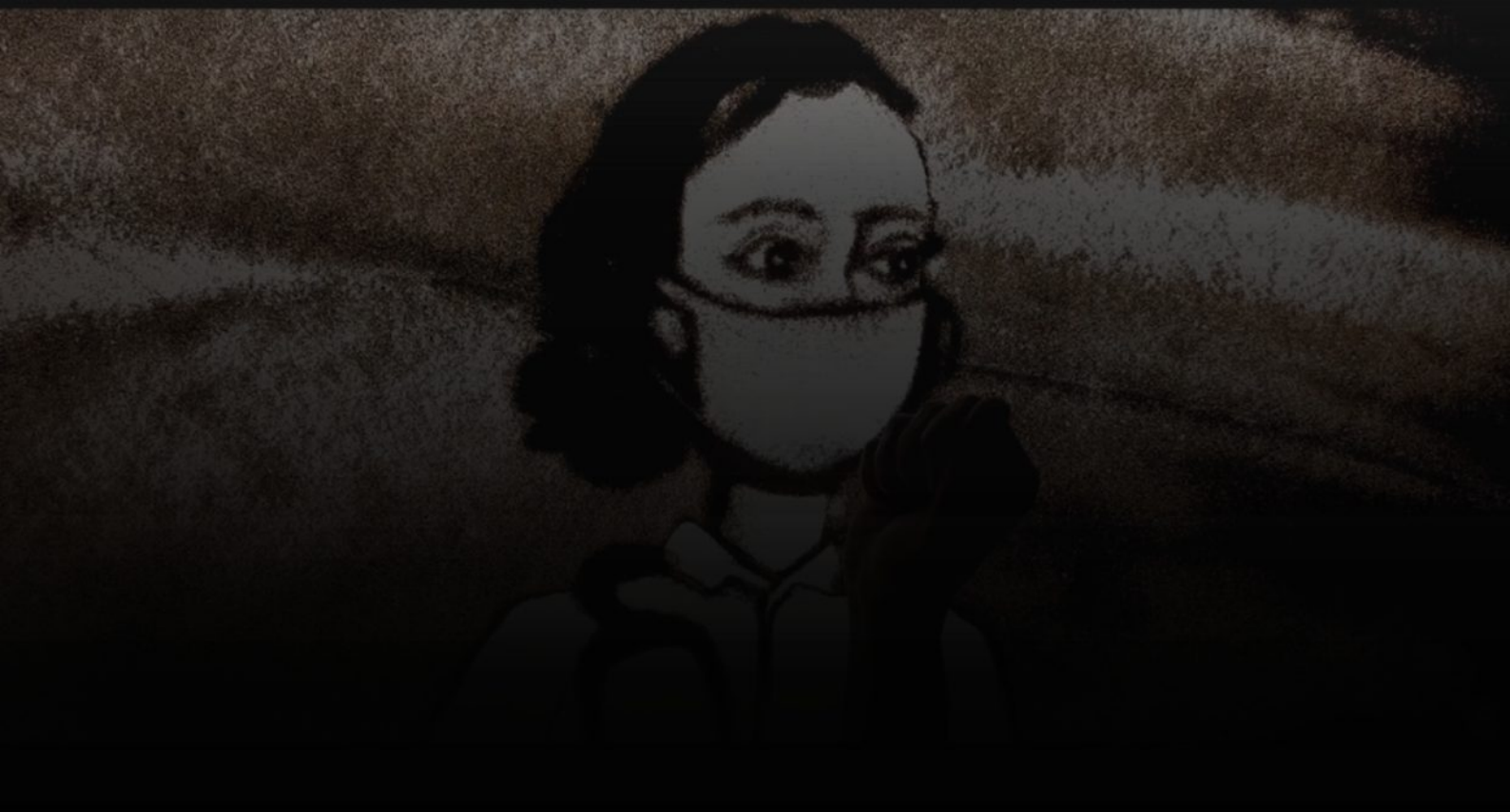
There isn't much that's special about my time in Saudi Arabia. I was the oldest among four children, and the kind of kid who kept snatching away her father's pens, drew stuff everywhere, and told my little sisters wacky made-up stories. Growing up, dad always told us we'd move to Ethiopia someday. He told us about the rain and greenery there, and Since I craved rainfall so much, moving here was something I looked forward to for a long time. But it wasn't until my final year of high school when I finally left Saudi Arabia in a hurry—with the new laws and attitudes there, it was getting increasingly unpleasant to be a foreigner/foreigner's kid there. So I arrived here by the tail-end of the rainy season, and I had just missed most of the rainfall I'd longed to see.



How would you describe the journey of mastering the sand art technique?

I'd first seen a girl draw with sand on Arabs Got Talent back in 2011, and I knew I had to make it happen somehow. Soon after, I put together a make-shift set with cardboard, glass from furniture in the house, an old lamp and papers that I had glued together. The sand art thing was primarily possible because of the internet, though. I'd found a few other sand animation artists on Youtube, stole some tricks from them, and tried it out on my new set-up. Then, in 2013, I took the idea to a gallery owner in Red Sea Mall, and she invited me to perform in the art exhibition openings she had lined up that summer. That experience taught me a lot about what works in live performances. When coming to Ethiopia the following year, I could only bring my sand with me. But my school got me glass for a sand-drawing performance I proposed for my high school graduation. And that was a nice chance to return to the craft here in Ethiopia.





What is the most special thing about sand art compared to other forms of artistic work?

It's cheap! Once you prepare a setup, you don't usually need to keep buying new tools to practice the artform. Also, it's the most fluid media I know of—there is an infinite combination of drawings you can produce on a glass surface, and no matter how ugly or pleasant-looking your art is, it can be simply wiped off with a swipe. There's something liberating and humbling about that.

What comments from the public about your works are the most memorable to you?

I've had people tell me some positive things about my performances over the years. What they said often led me to like sand art even in seasons when I was irritated or tired of it. One of the nicest recurring comments I hear is that a performance was hypnotizing or relaxing. I guess that's nice to hear—to have contributed to someone's temporary escape or comfort.

What is your greatest inspiration?

I don't know about a single 'great inspiration.' But I like to depict the passage of time and seasons. The Biblical tales, especially when I follow the story of a single person in that era and space, fascinate me as well.





Of the visuals you have created, which one is your favorite? Why is that?

I'm yet to make anything I'm genuinely happy with so far. But maybe the closest I got to that would be a video I shared on YouTube called ['From Genesis to Christ'](#). Together with my university classmate, we came up with a concept that might tie together the story of humanity's creation with the story of the coming of Christ. It was for a Christmas video the Kana TV crew had asked me to make. And I think it's the grandest narrative I tried to capture within a 3-minute video.



ASHENAFI TESFAYE

VISUAL ARTIST

“

*we can choose to
stand tall and see life
as the colorful and
unique mosaic it
really is.*



Leul Mekonen

WHO'S
ASHENAFI
AND HIS BACKGROUND?

I am Ashenafi Tesfaye. I am a visual artist.

I used to sketch since I was at young age and when my passion got bigger I went to Abyssinia art school for a summer course and after I finished, I went to Pushkin art school and learned art there for three years.





What inspired most of your works specifically?

As I mentioned before, I am inspired by day to day life in Ethiopia. most of the paintings I do are called mosaic other than that I do landscapes, portraits and drawings. what I really want to tell or show others through my art is we can choose to stand tall and see life as the colorful and unique mosaic it really is and perspective is everything.



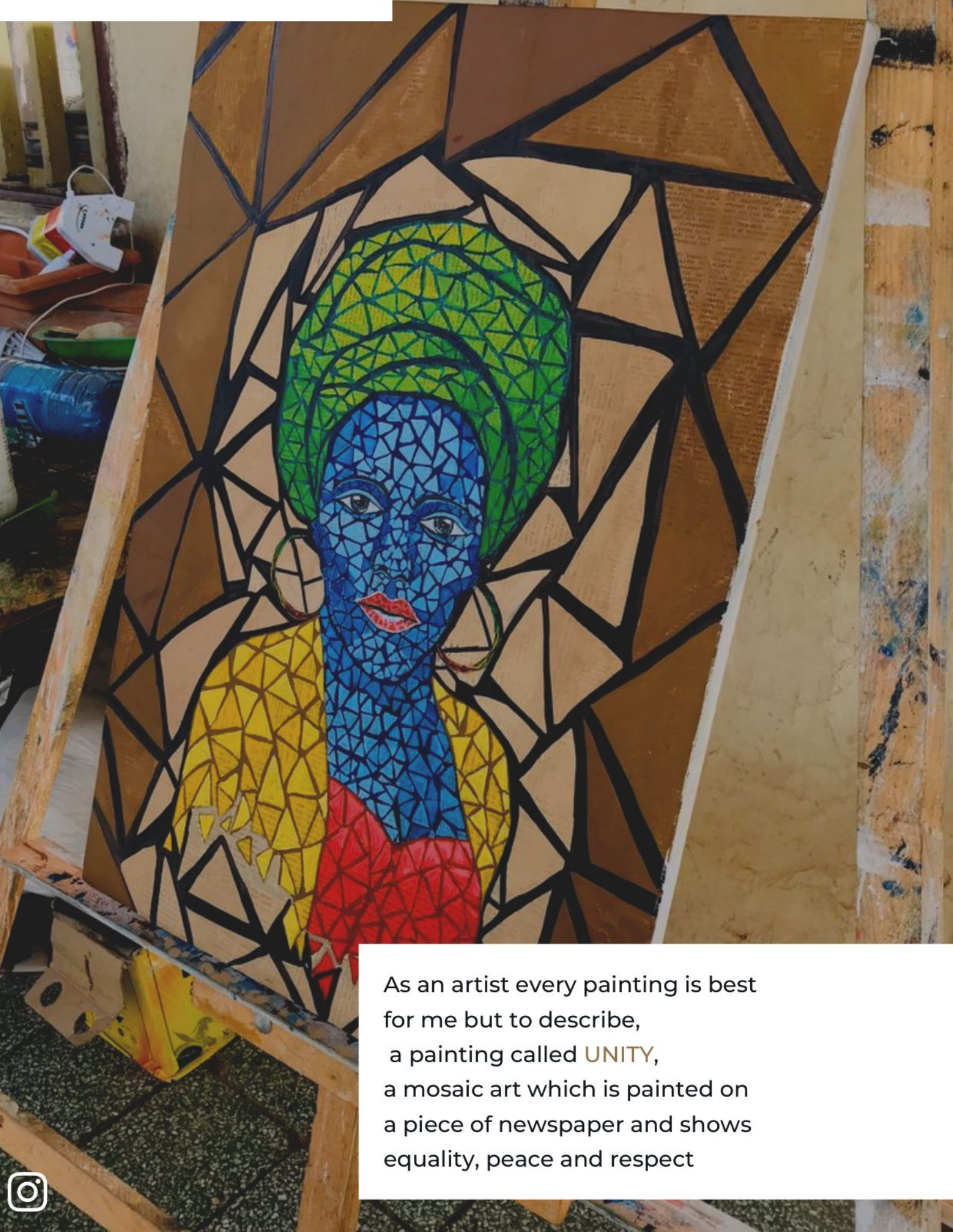
Where do you find inspiration?

My inspiration came from many things. living in Ethiopia is a big inspiration because there are different cultures and life styles.

what are your biggest artistic influences?

My artistic influences are the profound works left by masters that came before me like Mezgebu Tessema and the other artistic influences are my own experiences and the environment around me.

BEST PIECE OF ART ?

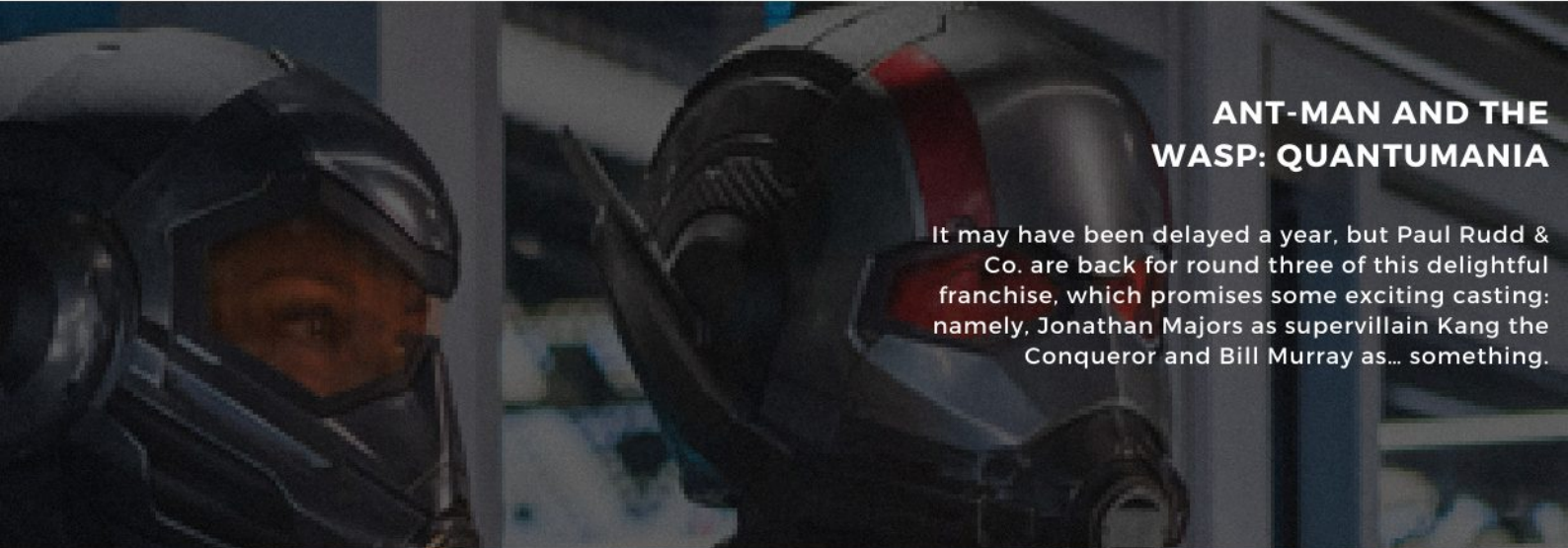


As an artist every painting is best for me but to describe, a painting called **UNITY**, a mosaic art which is painted on a piece of newspaper and shows equality, peace and respect



THE MOST ANTICIPATED MOVIES OF 2023

Upcoming Movies 2023

A close-up shot of two characters in futuristic, metallic suits with glowing red visors, likely from the movie Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania.

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA

It may have been delayed a year, but Paul Rudd & Co. are back for round three of this delightful franchise, which promises some exciting casting: namely, Jonathan Majors as supervillain Kang the Conqueror and Bill Murray as... something.

A scene from Creed III showing two men in boxing gear, one in a blue jacket and the other shirtless, standing in a boxing ring with a blue background and string lights.

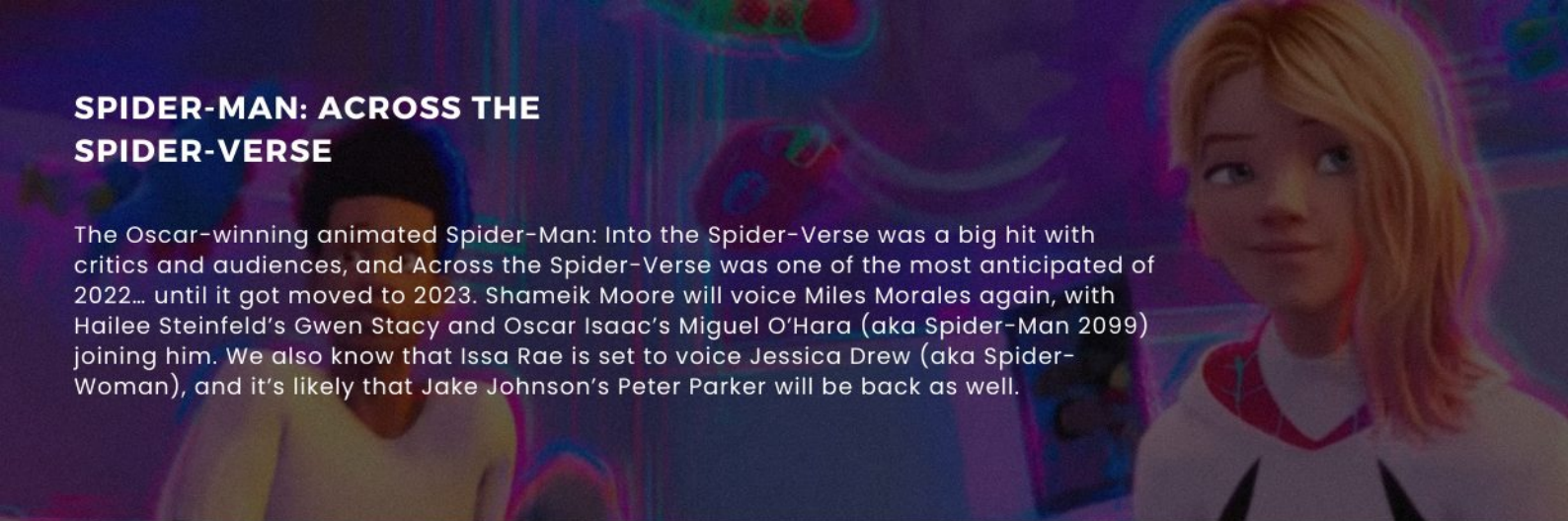
CREED III

Michael B. Jordan makes his feature directorial debut with the third installment of the Rocky spin-off Creed franchise, in which he plays the son of Rocky's nemesis-turned-friend Apollo Creed. We don't yet know how things will play out in this chapter, but Jonathan Majors appears to be Adonis's opponent in the ring, while Tessa Thompson and Phylicia Rashad are set to reprise their roles as Adonis's girlfriend and mother, respectively.

A scene from Shazam! Fury of the Gods showing several characters in superhero costumes, including Shazam, standing in front of a cityscape.

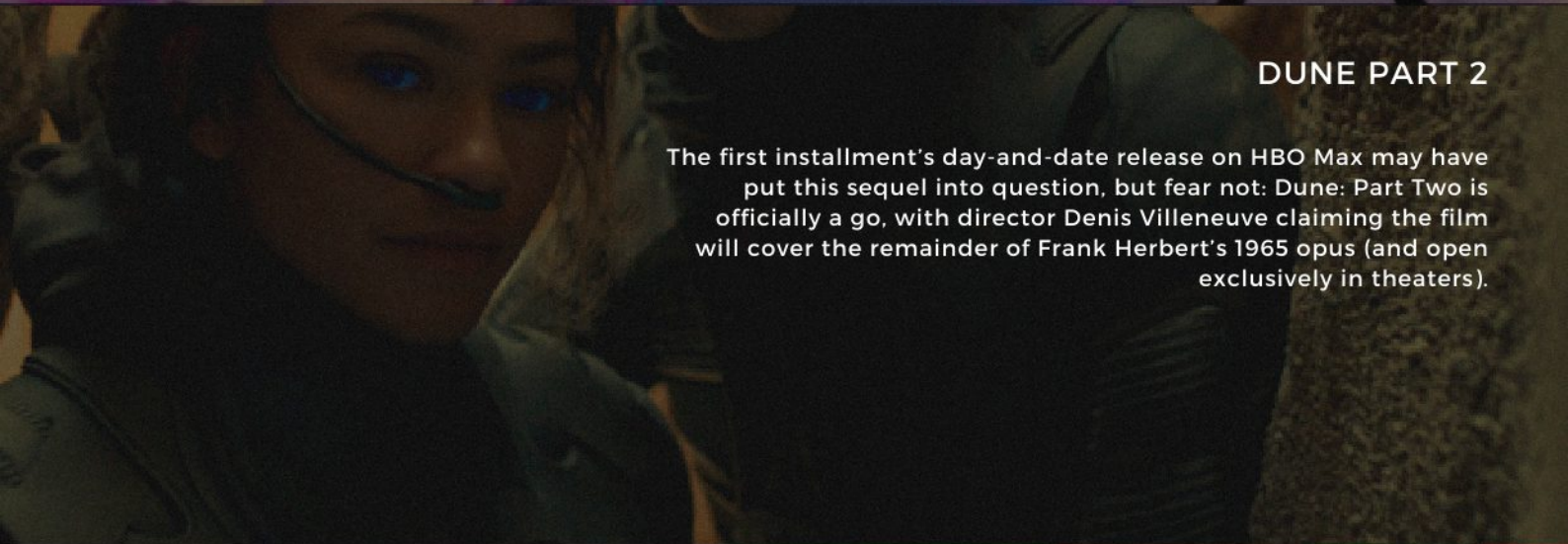
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS

Zachary Levi's Shazam returns, along with his teenage form Billy Batson (Asher Angel) and all of his stepsiblings, who have embraced their superpowered lives. But when new villains Kalypso (Lucy Liu) and Hespera (Helen Mirren) — aka the daughters of Atlas — arrive, the kids have to learn to work together to defeat them.

A background image for the Spider-Man section featuring characters from the animated film 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse'. On the left, Miles Morales is shown in a white t-shirt. On the right, Gwen Stacy is shown in a white and red Spider-Man suit. The background is a vibrant, colorful, and slightly abstract representation of the film's multiverse theme.

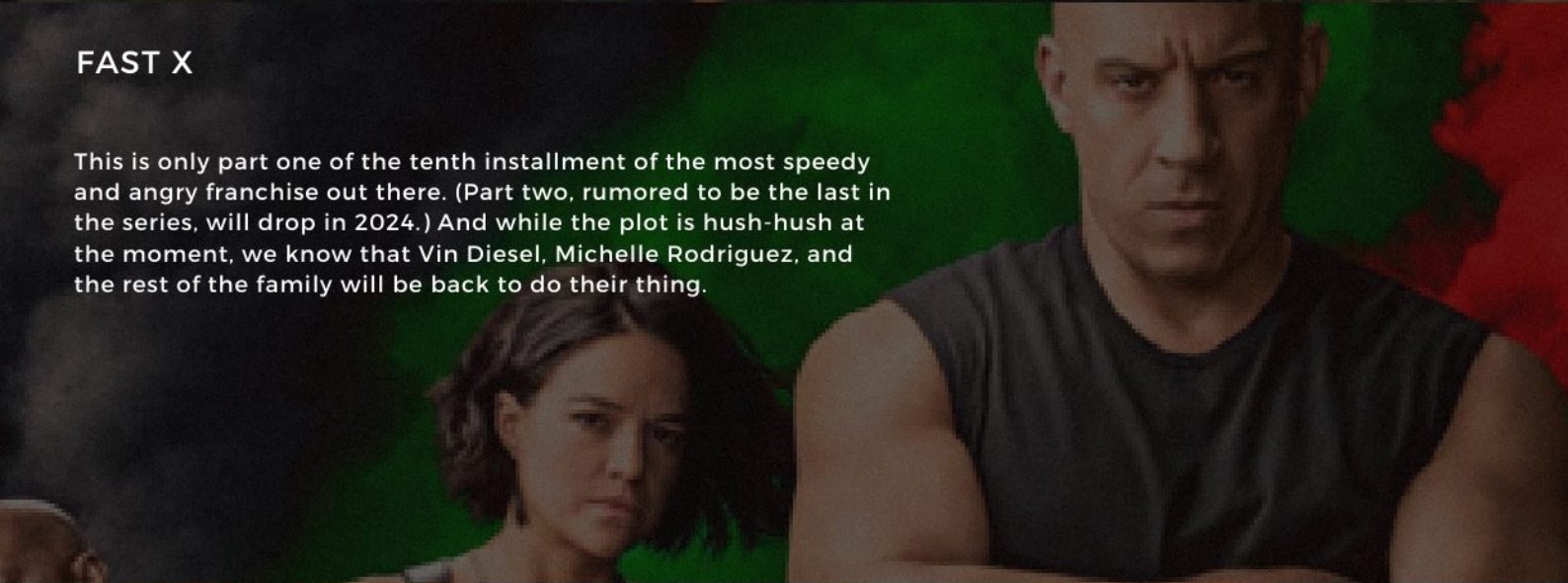
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE

The Oscar-winning animated *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* was a big hit with critics and audiences, and *Across the Spider-Verse* was one of the most anticipated of 2022... until it got moved to 2023. Shameik Moore will voice Miles Morales again, with Hailee Steinfeld's Gwen Stacy and Oscar Isaac's Miguel O'Hara (aka Spider-Man 2099) joining him. We also know that Issa Rae is set to voice Jessica Drew (aka Spider-Woman), and it's likely that Jake Johnson's Peter Parker will be back as well.

A background image for the Dune section featuring a close-up of Chani (Zendaya) from the film 'Dune: Part 2'. She has a serious expression and is wearing her signature blue eye-covering headpiece. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

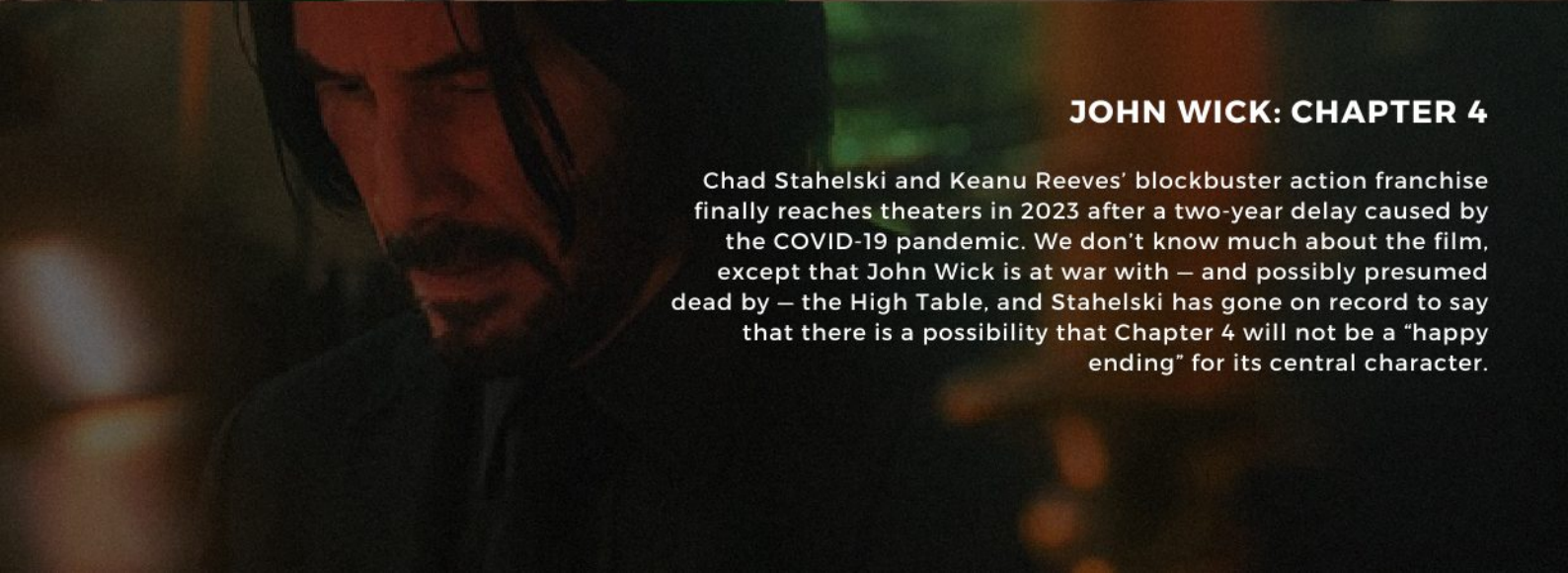
DUNE PART 2

The first installment's day-and-date release on HBO Max may have put this sequel into question, but fear not: *Dune: Part Two* is officially a go, with director Denis Villeneuve claiming the film will cover the remainder of Frank Herbert's 1965 opus (and open exclusively in theaters).

A background image for the Fast X section featuring Vin Diesel as Dom Toretto and Michelle Rodriguez as Letty Ortiz from the film 'Fast X'. They are both looking forward with serious expressions. The background is a mix of green and red, suggesting a high-stakes action scene.

FAST X

This is only part one of the tenth installment of the most speedy and angry franchise out there. (Part two, rumored to be the last in the series, will drop in 2024.) And while the plot is hush-hush at the moment, we know that Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, and the rest of the family will be back to do their thing.

A background image for the John Wick section featuring Keanu Reeves as John Wick from the film 'John Wick: Chapter 4'. He has a beard and is looking down with a somber expression. The lighting is low and moody, with some warm tones in the background.

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4

Chad Stahelski and Keanu Reeves' blockbuster action franchise finally reaches theaters in 2023 after a two-year delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We don't know much about the film, except that John Wick is at war with – and possibly presumed dead by – the High Table, and Stahelski has gone on record to say that there is a possibility that Chapter 4 will not be a "happy ending" for its central character.

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