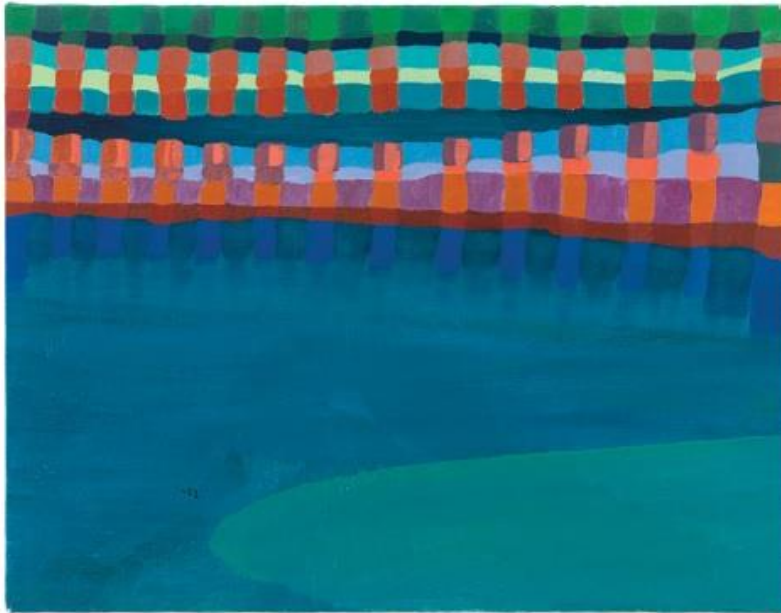


*The New Yorker*

25 September 2020

## Ficre Ghebreyesus

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Courtesy Galerie Lelong & Co., New York / © The Estate of Ficre Ghebreyesus

Before his premature death, in 2012, at the age of fifty, this Eritrean-born painter completed a number of canvases in his New Haven studio that exist somewhere between abstraction and representation, while establishing a vocabulary all their own. Working, for the most part, in acrylic, Ghebreyesus made pictures that are cool in tone but psychologically charged. The canvases in his current exhibition at Galerie Lelong give order to the chaos of displacement, and communicate what it feels like to live in both natural and man-made worlds, in which bodies of water, airplanes, and lone brown figures coexist in a kind of dreamscape. (The show shares its title with the lyrical painting “Gate to the Blue,” made circa 2002-07.) But Ghebreyesus’s eye is not dreamy or soft; his romanticism is based on real yearning for place and, thus, for identity—a world to call one’s own.

— *Hilton Als*

Sept. 10-Oct. 24

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