



Elias Sime, *Tightrope 8*, 2025, woven electrical wires on wood panel, 55 1/2 x 48 in, (141 x 121.9 cm).

43 RUE DE MONTMORENCY | PARIS, FRANCE | OCT 20 – 26, 2025

Elias Sime

James Cohan is pleased to present an exhibition of work by Elias Sime, on view at 43 Rue de Montmorency from October 20 through October 26, 2025. The gallery will host a VIP preview on Monday, October 20, 2025, from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Elias Sime (b.1968 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) transforms carefully selected everyday materials into lyrical abstract compositions. Working with electronic components such as circuit boards, computer keys, and telecommunications wires, he creates intricate works that evoke topographies, color fields, and urban grids. The works in this presentation mark a new chapter in Sime's ongoing *Tightrope* series, which he began in 2009. By working within a restrained palette, he explores subtle, undulating shifts in tone across braided wire panels, rendered in shades of grey, white, green, and blue. They reveal an extraordinary attention to detail that challenges viewers to reconsider the value, beauty, and boundless potential of human ingenuity.

For Sime, the histories embedded in these materials are central. His practice explores transformation—both in physical form and in how we understand the shifting relationship between technology and humanity. Reflecting the dynamic interplay between technological progress and human experience, his works capture the ways our lives

are bound to the devices that surround us. They invite viewers to consider not only what is visible, but also the unseen systems, extractions, and exchanges that shape contemporary life.

Sime has been the focus of major international solo exhibitions, most recently *Elias Sime: Dichotomy* ፊት እና ጀርባ, an official Collateral Event of the 60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. The exhibition was on view from April to November 2024 at Spazio Tana, Castello, in Venice, and was organized by Kunstpalast Düsseldorf. Selected works from this presentation were later featured in *Echo* የገደል ማማረቅ, a solo exhibition at Kunstpalast Düsseldorf in Germany, which remained on view through June 2025.

Other solo exhibitions include *Eregata* አርጋታ at Arnolfini in Bristol, United Kingdom (2023), which was accompanied by a catalog and traveled to Hastings Contemporary in Hastings, United Kingdom (2024), *Currents* 118: *Elias Sime* at the Saint Louis Art Museum, MO (2020), *Elias Sime: Tightrope*, The Wellin Museum of Art at Hamilton College, NY (2019), which traveled to the Akron Art Museum in Akron, Ohio, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri, and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada. His installation, *Roots*, is on permanent view at the Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C.

Sime has been featured in numerous group exhibitions and biennales, including Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, AR (2023); Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX (2023); the 59th Venice Biennale, Italy (2022); Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom (2021); NEON, Athens, Greece (2021); Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL (2018). In 2019, Sime received an African Art Award from the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art and was shortlisted for the Hugo Boss Prize 2020.

Elias Sime's work is in the permanent collections of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, AR; Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation, Santa Fe, NM; Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA; Detroit Institute of Arts, MI; Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA; de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA; Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel; Johns Hopkins University Campus Collection, Baltimore, MD; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND; Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL; Pizzuti Collection at the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH; Rollins Museum of Art, Rollins College, Orlando, FL; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY; Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO; Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH; Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA; and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan.

For inquiries regarding Elias Sime, please contact Celine Collazo at ccollazo@jamescohan.com or +1 212.714.9500.

For press inquiries, please contact Sarah Stengel at [sstengel@jamescohan.com](mailto:ssengel@jamescohan.com) or +1 212.714.9500.