



**A magnificent photobook exploring the religious origins of Ethiopia**

Ethiopia is characterized by a diversity of religions, ethnicities, and languages, with a history dating back to biblical times. Judaism and Christianity have left many traces in the African country. Christine Turnauer traveled to Ethiopia to explore its Jewish and Christian origins and to photograph deeply religious people. The impressive black-and-white images reveal the interest of the photographer and former assistant to Frank Horvat in the spiritual lives of those she portrays. Sensitivity and empathy as well as mutual trust and respect are important prerequisites for this. Christine Turnauer is a seeker of meaning who looks at the human condition without reservation.

From the text *Judaism and Jews in Ethiopia* by **Rabbi Menachem Waldman**:

*Compiling them as a book is intended to add connections between the various components of the Ethiopian people, and it inspires hope for a life of mutual respect and love between the descendants of our father Abraham.*

From the text *Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity* by **Prof. Dietmar W. Winkler**:

*This book, with its fascinating photographs, provides wonderful insights into the many faces and traditions of Ethiopia. It reflects the spiritual richness that has grown out of the confluence of the different religions and cultures of Ethiopia.*

From the text *The Ethiopian Empire in Interaction with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church* by **Prince Asfa-Wossen Assefate, PhD**: *The traditions of the Ethiopian imperial dynasty and the Ethiopian Church stretch back over three thousand years. Over the centuries, Ethiopia's imperial court, church, and people, aware of their*

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NEW RELEASE 2024

**Christine Turnauer**  
***Biblical Faces of Ethiopia***

Texts by Asfa-Wossen Assefate, Christine Turnauer, Menachem Waldman, Dietmar W. Winkler

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*covenant with God, have constantly striven to come closer to the ideal of His kingdom on Earth. This awareness has shaped Ethiopia, and held the nation together, regardless of difficulties, for centuries.*

**Christine Turnauer** moved to Paris in 1971 and apprenticed to various photographers. From 1974 to 1976, she was an assistant to Frank Horvat and then worked as a freelance photographer until 1979. That year, she emigrated to Alberta, Canada, where she focused on photographing traditional dancers among North America's indigenous peoples. Using a portable daylight studio, she traveled for two years from Alberta to Montana, attending different "powwows." Her book *I Saw More Than I Can Tell* (2020) features portraits from this project.

Since returning to Europe in 1995, she has traveled to Japan, Romania, Ethiopia, and more, creating a series of black-and-white portraits published as *Presence* (2014). In 2014, she began a new project on the dignity of Gypsies, leading to the book *The Dignity of the Gypsies* (2017).

In 2018, after meeting some Gitanos in Arles, she was inspired to create a tribute series, exhibited in 2022.

**Forthcoming Exhibition**

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## Press images



01\_ Mitin Badege, grandmother, and Kalemwork, her grandson, community of Beta Israel, Gondar, Ethiopia, 2011 © Christine Turnauer



02\_ Mother and child, community of Beta Israel, Gondar, Ethiopia, 2011 © Christine Turnauer



03\_ Meri Geta, choirmaster, church of Yemrehana Krestos, north of Lalibela, Ethiopia, 2011 © Christine Turnauer



04\_ Medhin Aregawi, Ethiopian Orthodox Christian, Gheralta, Ethiopia, 2011 © Christine Turnauer



05\_ A young monk, holding his hand cross, Ethiopia, 2011 © Christine Turnauer



06\_ Worldid or "Black Lady", as we named her, Gondar market, Ethiopia, 2011 © Christine Turnauer



07\_ Ethiopian Orthodox Christian, church of Yemrehana Krestos, north of Lalibela, Ethiopia, 2011 © Christine Turnauer