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Description : The diptych's composition of registers containing depictions of multiple events is complex. Particularly appealing are the artist's references to Ethiopian life: Mary spinning thread seated on a three-legged stool; the ball game; the style of the three yellow crowns; the lidded food basket on Salome's head; and the depiction of the Temple in Jerusalem as miniature Ethiopian churches. The hand-to-cheek pose and presence of "Eyachem" in the Nativity scene is more typical of Joseph. The final two scenes--the death and assumption of Mary--are rare in Ethiopian art and mix local and foreign artistic forms. Left panel top: "The Annunciation" and "The Visitation of Elizabeth" (Elizabeth, left; Mary, right) middle: "He (Jesus) sleeping in the manger" with Mary flanked by "Hanna" and "Yoachim" bottom: "Boys playing genna" and "The Magi giving a present to Jesus, Hanna" Right panel top: "Entrance of St. Mary to the Temple" middle: "The Flight to Egypt" with Joseph and Salome bottom, left: "The (Death) of St. Mary" and apostles bottom, right: "The Ascension (Assumption) of St. Mary" with angels

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Source : Musée national d'art africain