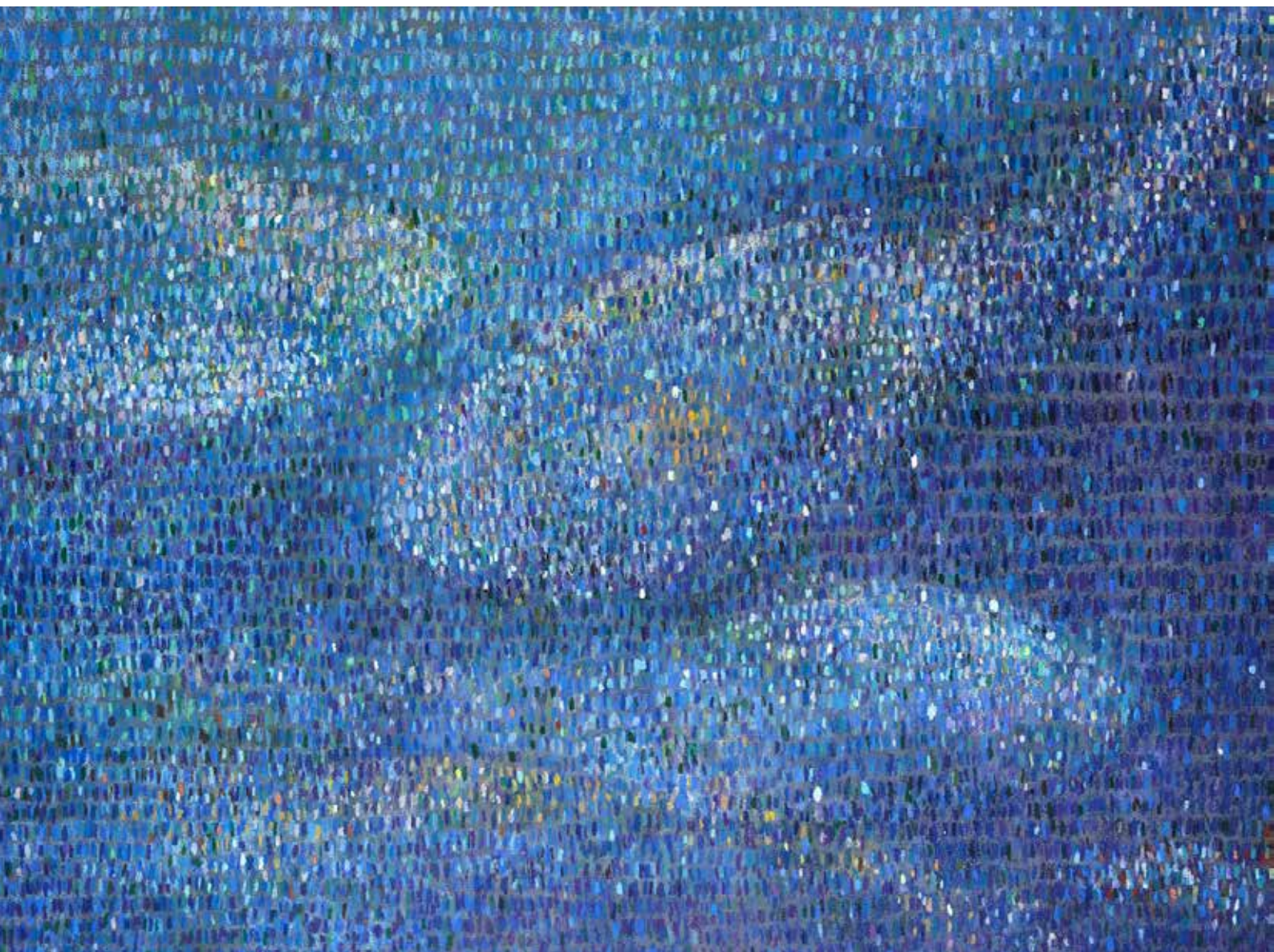




# *Margie Nienaber – the viewing of wonder*

Namibian-born artist Margaret Nienaber's exhibition entitled 'Here, Above, Beyond,' will be open for viewing at The Project Room from October 24 to November 7th 2020. Don't miss it.

Words by: **Marita van Rooyen**

Photographs: **Christian Stiebahl**





All Michelangelo winners must pass two stringent tests: Their entry must score in the top third of all entries received, AND their entry must be awarded a minimum of 86 out of a possible 100 points on the OIV-type points system.



“What exciting and rejuvenating wonders there are, ‘Here, Above, Beyond,’ waiting for us to see, feel and touch our souls in the unusual and worrying times in which we exist.

And yet, the colours, radiance and textures of art materials encourage us to explore the space, light and depth around us. Above us is the wide open sky, dotted at night with stars, pulsing, shining, trembling, moving

with light, welcoming us to a continuous viewing.”

The artist at work is Margaret Joy (Margie) Nienaber. Born in Windhoek in 1952 and schooled at St George’s Diocesan and Centaurus High, the very same institutions to which she would later return to serve as English and History teacher. Until such time, Nienaber busied herself with further studies – majoring in Art Teaching – at the Cape Teachers Training College in Mowbray, Cape Town.









All Michelangelo competition entries are tasted “double blind”. Neither the organisers, nor the judges can see the sequence, panel or order in which entries are tasted. All scores are recorded against a number only.



Soon after completion, she returned to Namibia to kick-start her teaching career in Windhoek. Despite her preference for visual education, it was only in 1998 that Nienaber put passion into practice by taking on a position as art teacher at St Paul's College, where she worked until her retirement in 2010. During this time she further confirmed her dedication to the arts industry by serving as External Art Examiner for grades 10 to 12, under the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, and as school-based Assessor in Art and Design.

“This exhibition will be my first solo showcase, as most of my life was spent slogging away as a teacher”, laughs Nienaber. “It was only after my retirement from teaching that I was able to do what interested me most – exploring the wide field of two-dimensional art – in my own time and space.”

Nienaber joined the Barbara Böhlke Art School as the first step “to pursue my own development and interest in art.” She found her ideal medium in oil pastel on Fabriano Paper “in dark shades/tones”, describing her choice as “a particular interest... as a method of mark making, drawing and painting”.

The artist remains an avid member of the school, through which she's participated in various group exhibitions, in addition to having her work shown at the Windhoek Triennial exhibitions in 2014 and 2017.

In her latest and first full-bodied collection, an interest in what Nienaber describes as “reflected light, “stitches” and pointillism”, are reflected in works such as Stellar Swirl, Scales of Pisces, Ebb and Flow, Claritas and Northern Lights – the “Here, Above, Beyond” – an expression of endless wonder.

“Deep sky is, of all impressions, the nearest akin to a feeling”, she quotes poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, adding that, “water seems to mirror the above and beyond so well, spotted with little particles, dancing their own dance, dressed in their own energy and reflected light.”

“And so I revert to creating harmony in whichever way I can.”

#### More About The Artist

While Nienaber can be classified as a veteran in the arts sector, she makes it known, “I have no website and no Facebook platform...I only have an email address. At the grand old age of 68, I'm new to the game!”

Contact her on [margie.n@africaonline.com.na](mailto:margie.n@africaonline.com.na) or via the Project Room for a visual catalogue of her exhibition. “Here, Above, Beyond” will be open for viewing from 24 of October to 7th of November 2020. ✨



#### The Project Room - Namibia

32 Jenner Street in Windhoek West

[theprojectroomnamibia](https://www.facebook.com/theprojectroomnamibia)

[theprojectroomnamibia](https://www.instagram.com/theprojectroomnamibia)

+264 81 751 3026

Opening hours during exhibitions:

Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 1pm