

# *Synthesis of a Blue Sky and Beyond*

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Synthesis of a Blue Sky is a collection of art that expresses how ideas work together across multiple imaginative places in the eye of my mind. The artworks are based on feelings of places that have deeply influenced and affected my life and the way I think about things in a tangible and abstract world.

In the real world of my story, I have spent lovely times in the Great Karoo over the past 25 years, especially in the winter months. To the indigenous Khoi people, the word Karoo means “Land of Thirst”. The air is crisp, dry, and clear and you can practically smell the distinctive spiciness of the dust and the Karoo bushes that grow out of it. The taste of dryness on the tongue makes the skin cry for moisture. The sun is sheer light, the daylight rushes in warm wind gusts, and the nights are noiseless. Nothing stirs when it does. The sound of a slipping rock, the mew of a Kudu cuts through the valleys with crystal clarity even though it's kilometers away. You can hear the dramatic thumping of your heart in your lonely hollow breast. It's a place of visual poetry.

The land is tinged with a plethora of tones and colours. A muted prism of an ancient land with brown reds and rust, slate grey, dusty yellows, faded orange and pale purple and tinges of teal and laurel green. The land is flat forever and then in the far distance a shadowy ridge of mountain ranges and Kopies emerge from the haze hundreds of kilometers away. The void of the landscape is medicinal, salubrious, and cleansing. The open space seems lifeless and empty, but through the synthesis of a little rain, a lot of sun and enough minerals in the soil, the Karoo is bursting with robust rich life which has amassed almost everywhere.

But wait!!! To see this amazing place, this world of wonder, this universe of mysterious life, you have to be willing to view it on a micro level. You must humble yourself as a person, as a viewer and get down on your hands and knees and look very very closely. You have to open your mind and allow the magic of life to entertain and enrich the imagination. It's a dazzling amazing display of diversity all working together to form a whole world. A Synthesis of life full of flowers, herbs, succulents, scurrying animals, insects, and lizards all creating this wonderful life that is just beneath our feet. If only we took the time to see it.

Synthesis of a Blue Sky is a visual emotive idea that tells a small part of my life's story. On one side of the story are tangible, yet interpretive artworks of landscapes and on the other side of the story are artworks expressing how those places impressed upon my imagination. They are two visual ideas that as a combination work together to form a new whole. A Synthesis! Perhaps you may connect with my journey and my truth, perhaps you see life differently, and perhaps you see my art differently. The beauty of art is that there is no correct positive or negative impression, no good or bad, and no offence to be apprehensive in response or interpretation. The feelings you have for this display of art may be transient, it may not be forever, but it may just resonate and touch your soul somewhere on your journey as it has on my own.

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