

Nita Spilhaus (1878–1967) and her artist friends in the Cape in the early twentieth century

Peter Elliott

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Timed to coincide with the first-ever comprehensive exhibition of this painter's work, which opens at the Sanlam Art Gallery in Cape Town on 8 September 2015, this publication will delight art lovers and provide insight into an important period in the development of art in the Cape.

About the book

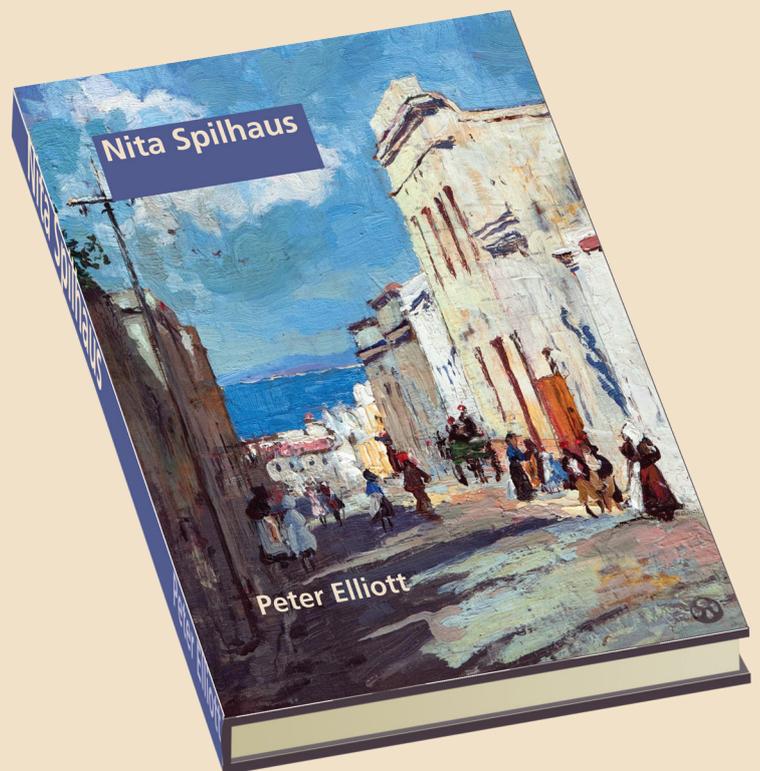
The period 1910 to 1930 was an important stage in the development of Cape Impressionism. At the time, a small group of European-trained painters were struggling to adapt their palettes to capture the indigenous light and colours of the Cape.

While much has been written on artists such as Irma Stern and Maggie Laubser – this is the first major account of the life and art of Nita Spilhaus, and it provides a new perspective on her circle of artist friends.

In this authoritative survey, the author captures the atmosphere of the time. He draws on the characterful diaries of the cartoonist, D.C. Boonzaier, and contemporary anecdotes about Nita's contemporaries, their studios, exhibitions and social gatherings. Most importantly, he provides a lens through which readers may look closely at the paintings and their detail. The book includes 123 photographs, including 50 colour plates of Nita Spilhaus's work.

About the author

Peter Elliott is a great-nephew of Nita Spilhaus and grew up in the Cape surrounded by Nita's paintings and sketches. His intimate knowledge and unique access to collectors of the artist's work has enabled him to present the very best of Nita's art and her artistic themes.



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Distribution

orders@onthedot.co.za OR sales@jacana.co.za

All trade enquiries

robin@printmatters.co.za • www.printmatters.co.za