

Gabriel

Sheba Synagogue

A bridge between nations and religions – inspired by the art of Marc Chagall

The German artist Gabriel has been currently working on the new Sheba Synagogue project — located in the main lobby of the most comprehensive medical center in the Middle East. Beautiful stained glass windows, which profoundly

touch the contexts peace, hope and consolation. The Chaim Sheba Medical Center is the most comprehensive medical center in the Middle East. With 1.5 million people passing through Israel's largest and most important medical facility every year, visiting the Synagogue is an important spiritual experience. Many of the medical center's patients, their families and visitors, as



Yvelle Gabriel with his partner Gilles Florent | Israel



Gabriel at the Bezalel Academy of Arts | Hebrew University, Jerusalem



well as Sheba staff, make daily use of the central synagogue. At times of medical crisis and uncertainty, all people — from all walks of life — seek a place to pray. The current construction of the new Sheba Synagogue triples the size of the old one. A new concept and architectural design, adding a second floor and integrating the unique glass art of the German artist Yvelle Gabriel.

- 2 large front windows, each 1.20 x 6 meters high. Subject: “The profound journey of the Jews: Genesis: Exodus: Homeland”
- 1 hanging, oversized glass Torah Ark in the form of a three-dimensional, modified “Star of David”
- 1 three-dimensional glass ceiling diamond, “The tree of life: 7 fruits of Israel”, 3 meters diameter



Gabriel with his partner Gilles Florent at the St. Stephan Church | Mainz, Germany



JERUSALEM

SHEBA | The symbolic way of the Israelites goes into the symbols of science and medicine

and visually into Jewish symbolics (e.g. the Nehushtan and the rod/stick of Moses, the wings of the two cherub, the laws of Moses) finally into heavenly New „Jerusalem“ - e.g. with the lions, the golden crown and the diamonds.

SHEBA

MOSES | The Exodus from Egypt, Wandering, God's instructions to Moses, Announcement of the bids, Moses gathered 70 leaders and all the powerful streams of Jews under one roof and a wonderful unit, a unique common intention: the 12 tribes of Israel bundle their first formidable power.

EXODUS

Schemot | Exodus

GENESIS and Creation | The symbolic way of the Israelites. From the strength of our human existence: Duality - polarity - unity, Adam and Eve, Her sons Cain and Abel, Enoch and Set, The first strands and streams of humanity, Noah and his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth, Abraham and his wife Sarai | The 12 children of their son Jacob: Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Juda, Dan, Naftali, Gar, Ascher, Issachar, Sebulon, Jodes and Benjamin.

GENESIS

Bereschit | Genesis



STRUCTURE | The basic structure of the two front windows is very closely aligned with the Berlin Synagogue. By the courageous employment of the headmaster of the police, he prevented the Nazis in 1933 from destroying the worldwide most important Jewish new synagogue. Thus the two windows are following the structure: as a symbol for the worldwide Jewish rising culture and hope, the survival of all the Jews - and thus for the foundation of the state of Israel.

SHEBA SYNAGOGUE 2017



TREE OF LIFE

CEILING | Round skylight with e.g. the symbols of the 7 fruits of Israel (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranate, olives and honey), succoth, the rainbow, seder plate, the Jewish tree of life, the seed of life and the shapes of the sky as a tribute to the last window of Marc Chagall, before his death.

ARK | Deep-luminous, free-floating Torah ark made of mouth-blown antique glass | Hanging between the two 6-meter-high front windows of the new synagogue - a globally unique, high art quality Torah ark in the format of more than 2 x 3 meters will hang up from the ceiling, in which the 6 to 7 sacred Torah cases will be stored.

TORAH ARK





Gabriel at the St. Just glassworks, Saint-Just Saint-Rambert | France



Gabriel at historical studio of Marc Chagall and Charles Marq | Reims, France

The myth behind the art

- 2 large entrance doors each with 12 small windows. Subject: "12 tribes of Israel", in cooperation with the famous Bezalel Art School of Israel
- 1 large window in the staircase leading to the women's area. Subject: "Intention of good prayers and wishes"

In 1959, Marc Chagall was commissioned to create 12 windows of the then largest Israeli hospital "Hadassah". At the inauguration in 1962, he said: "My hope is that through this, I may extend my hand to the culture seeking poets and artists among the neighboring peoples." After this, he designed many



Gilles Florent with Bruno Paupette at Atelier Simon Marq | Reims, France

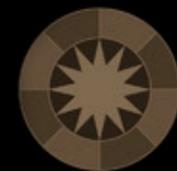
glass windows with his French partner and friend Charles Marq in collaboration with the Jacques Simon Workshop in Reims and the unique, mouth-blown antique glass works in St. Just sur Loire. He completed his crowning achievement in the St. Stephan's church in Mainz. Chagall's windows in Germany were a very personal statement after the Holocaust and Nazi Germa-

ny: a gesture of goodwill from a Jewish artist connecting and bridging Jewish and Christian faiths. Chagall finished this German-Jewish project in Mainz shortly before his death. Mainz is also the birthplace of Yvelle Gabriel, where he was baptized in 1969. For many years, the artist had a vision of continuing Chagall's very special work. Now he is able to pick up this





Gabriel together with Nihad Dabeet inside his studio | Ramla



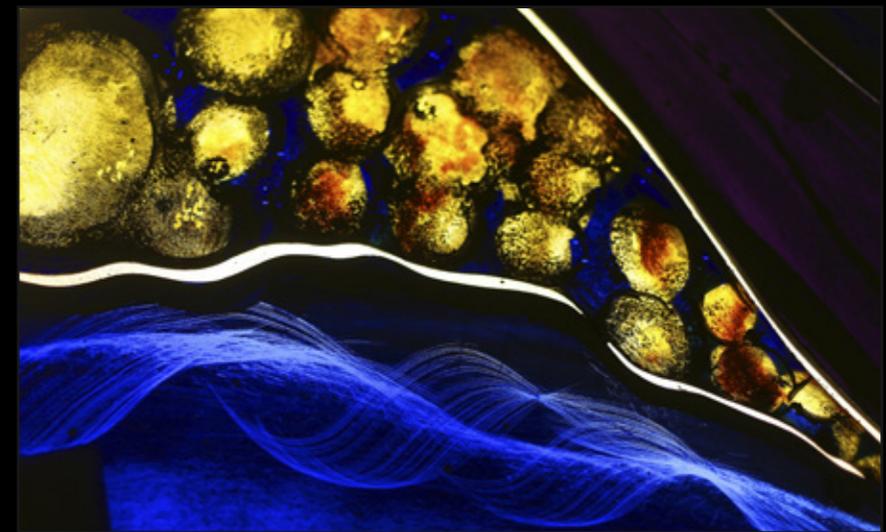
Dabeet | Florent | Gabriel



The German artist in his own words

delicate thread and return it to the “Holy Land”. He grew up close to the first “wild concentration camp” Osthofen and was beaten by some Neo-Nazis in his youth. Gabriel illustrates this in some of his art and performances.

“I am dedicated to this art project for the Jewish synagogue, in the largest Israeli hospital — a place of healing and recovery, especially for Jews — it is a great opportunity. On reflection, for me personally, the conciliatory circle is symbolically complete. A reaching out of



hands in the healing process of our own German past — between successive generations of Christians and Jews, a “generation of grandchildren” — German and Israeli. In the seven years of my Israeli travels, I was invited to many Jewish festivals. I took an in-depth part in Jewish life and embraced many sons, daughters and grandchildren, whose parents and grandpa-

rents were killed in concentration camps in Germany. I can only look back symbolically at these deep wounds — and soothe the scars lovingly when they no longer bleed. Only if I am permitted to, of course. However, as grandchildren we can handle this much more consciously. Time heals all wounds? Ultimately, the love and dedication of our and future generations, will be rea-



Gilles Florent inside of his old historical studio | Ramla, Israel







The wonderful glasswork assistant Dana | Ramla, Israel

dy for reconciliation. I am only too aware that my work will lead to controversy after its installation in 2018. A German artist, a non-Jew, creates the windows of the Orthodox synagogue — the spiritual and religious heart of the most important Jewish clinic in the Promised Land. But, for me, the focus will be on a peaceful completion of deep generational reconciliation, peo-

ples and nations: A world-embracing artist, whose heart and soul artistically builds bridges between all cultures and religions — in the spirit of Chagall”.

“My hope is that through this, I may extend my hand to all the Jews in Israel and that they will ultimately accept it as a gesture of friendship.”



Gabriel with the students of the Bezalel Art Academy, glass and ceramic | Jerusalem

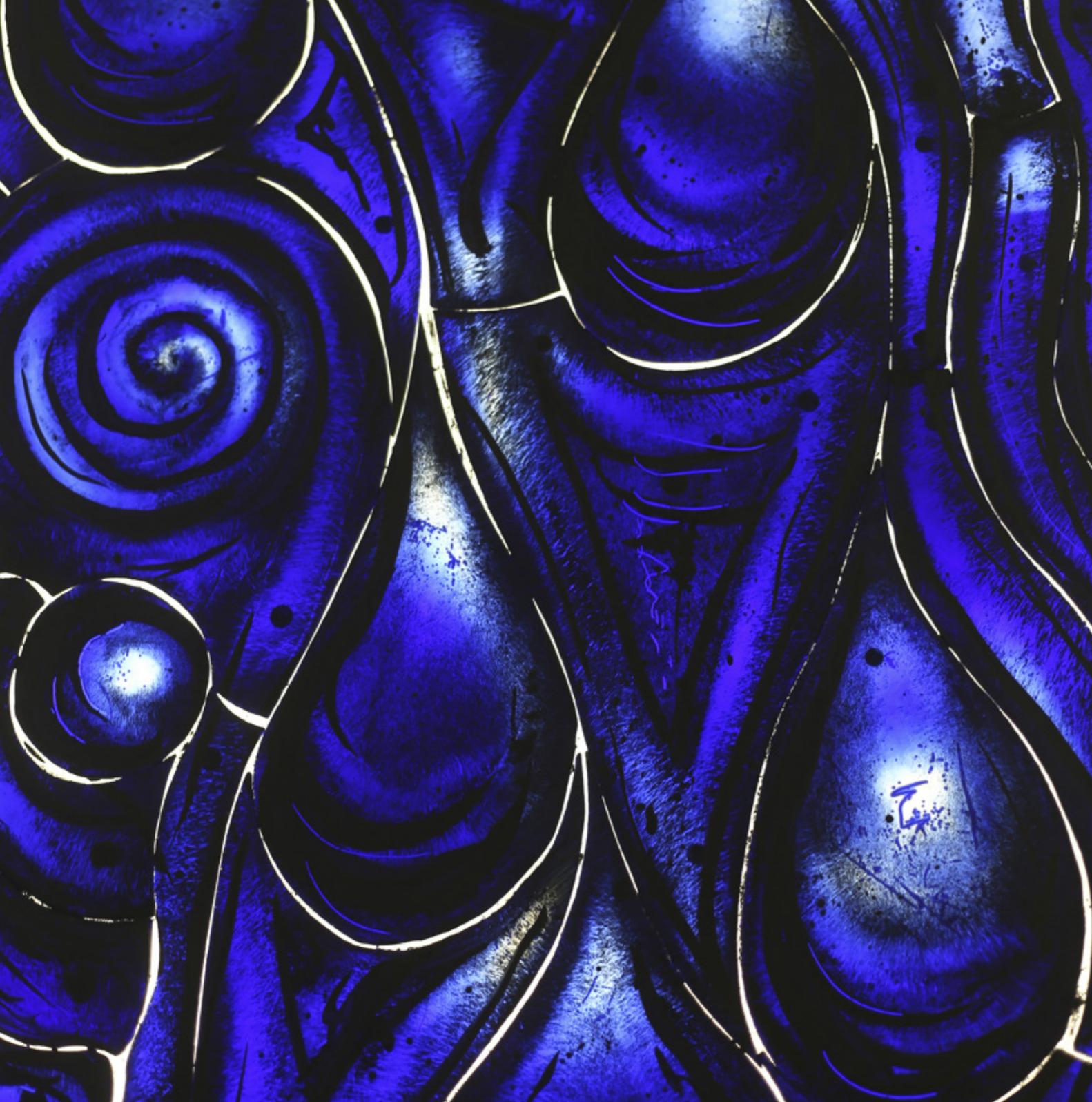
“During a tour in 2017, my Israeli Studio Partner, Gilles Florent, and I purchased some unique antique glass from the last French glass works, St. Just. In April, we visited the Studio Marq in Reims, where Marc Chagall once built his windows for Israel and Mainz. Here the inaugural piece of the front windows was created and transported to Israel: “the Jewish

flame”. Later in the year we opened our new Glass Studio in Ramla — inside the old Templar building of the Arab metal artist Nihad Dabeet. Now that our studio community has been established, visitors are welcome: From heart to art. When I look through the stained glass I am fascinated. It is comparable to seeing my whole life pass by. There are small bubbles, glittering wonderfully in the



Gabriel inside of his joint historical studio | Ramla, Israel

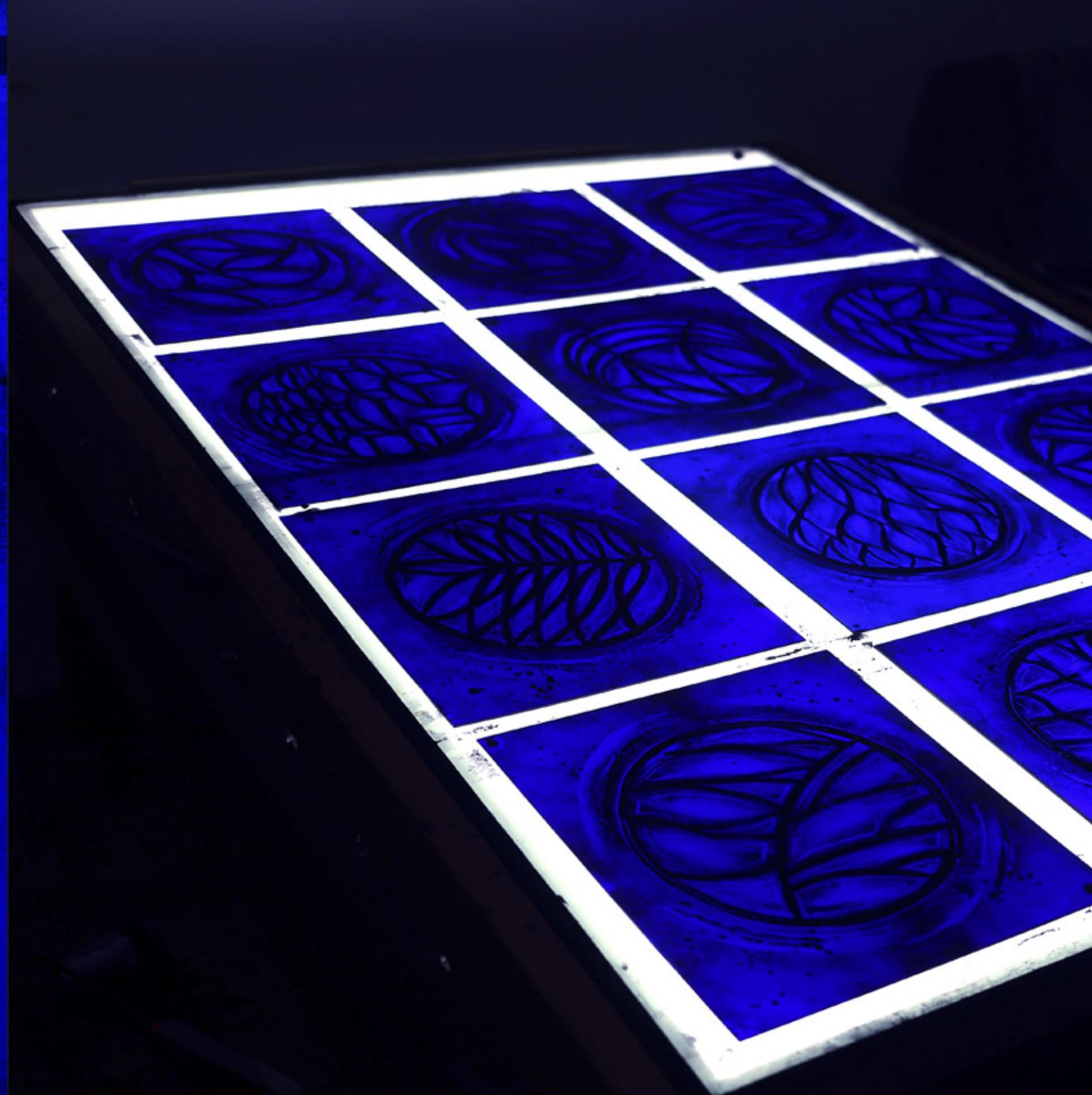




sun — interwoven with countless structures, in the warm back light of this unique moment. On the surface I perceive thousands of shimmering facets. The last seven years in Israel, an incomprehensible period of a thousand moments, seem to have melted into it, now crystallized and frozen — in a unique matrix, an artistic hologram. In may 2018, this profoundly expressive glass will be

installed in the synagogue of the largest Middle-Eastern clinic and many people will be able to read from it in the coming decades — a deeply touching personal experience. Generational Reconciliation through the conviction and belief in this holy work, of a German artist in Israel. The glow of glass is hidden in darkness — one divine light brings it forth. It penetrates our souls absolutely.”







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