

MARGO NELISSEN

THE SEEDS OF INSPIRATION

By Caitlin McGinn

Margo Nelissen's jewelry exemplifies the fragility of fallen nature. Her focus is on the seeds and flowers that have been discarded and are all around us every day. We hardly take notice of them as we go about our busy days, yet under our feet is a magical world of seeds, flowers, and coral formations. Nelissen has learned to "look down more" to take notice of the intricate and unique designs nature has to offer.

Nelissen is inspired by these patterns in nature and uses their influence to create her Secret Garden collection, of fine, dainty yet powerful, pieces of jewelry. She designs everything from necklaces, earrings, and rings and continually builds upon her previous work. This collection started in Holland where she used seeds fallen from different plants. Now she has her studio on Curaçao and has really been inspired by the raw nature that is right in her face. She has studied thoroughly the different coral shapes she has found at the beaches and learned their patterns and their textures. She has let her imagination loose and experiments with different colors and textures. She uses fine silver and oxidizes it to make shiny black sponge inspired rings, and she uses a white

frost on silver to create tiny flowers that she combines to create beautiful designs. Nelissen calls these designs her "fantasy seeds, corals and blossoms" because she is not concerned with making an exact representation of the ruggedness of nature, but rather having a creative, vibrant approach. She has a very contemporary style that retains her unique touch and as a result her pieces are wearable works of art.

Curaçao offers an endless inspiration to Nelissen because there is an abundance of nature she never had before. The cacti and other plants of Curaçao offer many different types of beautiful blossoms and leaves and the beaches are full of weathered corals, all which spark the creative genius within her. The landscape has so many different faces, from beaches with sparkling white sand and others with coral beds, to the rugged beauty of the North shore Bokas, to the salt flat flamingoes and the desert interior with its brush and hills. Everywhere Nelissen turns there is some newly recognized piece of nature to study and store away for her imagination to transform into a stunning piece of jewelry.

HER WORK IS AVAILABLE AT MON ART GALLERY IN THE RIF FORT.

www.margonelissen.nl

