

## NILS PETERSON

# Musings

A blue Mediterranean sky—immense  
but not infinite—maybe the world is understandable,  
thinks the would-be rational man.

But even at midday—moonbeams,  
so the sky starrer, beneath his azure roof, wonders,  
and, following his thought,

thinks he'd prefer those beautifully bodied gods  
who lived *beneath* the sky, even if on a mountaintop.  
One could become immortal then

and have a place around the eternal dinner table,  
though that required great labor or beauty. A god  
for a father could help. The thinker

watches the sun move along its way.  
He sees no chariot pulling it along,  
nor will he assent to a kingdom

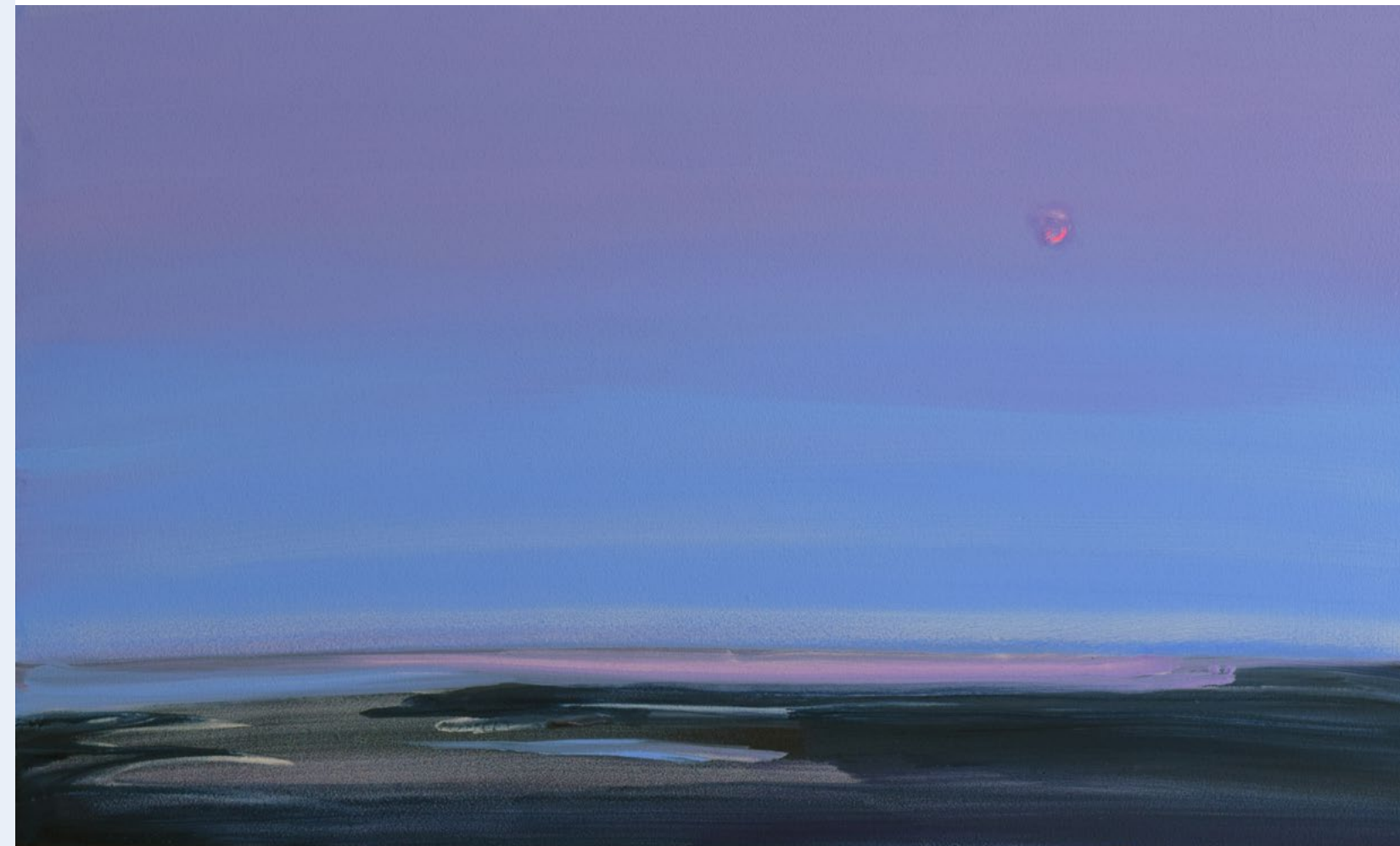
beyond the blue save the realm of star stuff  
and the workings through of the big bang.  
He sighs a rich sigh

at his thought and at the riot  
of bougainvillea in his sight and at the sound  
of the sea beyond the near hill.

**Nils Peterson** is Professor Emeritus at San Jose State University where he taught in the English and Humanities Departments. His publications include *The Comedy of Desire* with an introduction by Robert Bly, *Driving a Herd of Moose to Durango*, *For This Day*, *A Walk to the Center of Things*, and a collection of poems with watercolors called *Earth Fire Water Air*. Wordrunner Press published a memoir in 2014 entitled *Talk in the Reading Room*.

## SUSAN SOLOMON

*Planetary Beach*, 2018  
Gouache on panel, 12 x 20 in



COURTESY FRAMEWORKS GALLERY IN SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA