

Wax Form Sculpture Workshops with Sheena Ridley

These 4-day workshops offer self-catering accommodation on site. The number of students attending is kept to a maximum of six to ensure personal attention.

Wax is such an approachable medium in which to work, and is easily accessible. In this four-day workshop, we explore making an armature and cutting back mass, form building, basic aspects of sculpture and texture forming and finishing. Your completed maquette will be ready for casting should you like to.

These workshops are held in beautiful picturesque farming areas, **Noll** (near Uniondale in the Klein Karoo, 80kms from George) and **Vermaaklikheid** (close to Riversdale, Western Cape). There is onsite accommodation at both venues, and groups are restricted to a maximum of six students at a time. No experience in sculpting or use of wax is necessary.

Wax Sculpture Workshops in Vermaaklikheid

This experience will place you in the hamlet of Vermaaklikheid, past the vlakke or plains of the area between Riversdale in the Western Cape, and to the mouth of the beautiful Duiwenhoks River. The vlakke are farmlands with forever fields, old buildings and outcrops of trees. The river-mouth is an unspoiled area with a wide estuary, where light and colour create ever changing landscapes.

The daily routine is as follows: 8.30am-10am building up an armature, coffee break, 10.30 studio time till lunch break 1-2pm then an hour or so to complete the morning's work. Free time is from 3.30pm. Each day is approximately six hours studio time. We have options as to which space to use as a studio, if the weather is great, under a large afdak, or in my studio with a fireplace if the weather becomes uncomfortable.

Accommodation:

SWALE VIEW has two comfortable, fully equipped self-catering cottages available for the students to share. Both have a well-equipped kitchen, with a gas two-plate hob, a fridge, and all linen is provided. Please bring your own towels! Both cottages have lovely open fireplaces inside the lounges. Both cottages have open-air braai facilities. Firewood is available to buy on site. There are dogs on the property, well socialised and friendly.

Under Milkwood has one bedroom with a double bed, and one bedroom with two single beds. The bedrooms open into the open plan lounge and kitchen, with a dining-room table and a couch. There is a bathroom leading off here with a shower, basin and toilet. The large covered deck leads out from the lounge, and has a beautiful view over the valley.

Swallow's Dance has one bedroom with a double bed, and a small bedroom off the stoep with a single bed. The bathroom has a shower, basin and toilet and leads off the main bedroom or off the small stoep. The open plan lounge and kitchen has a dining table, comfy chairs and an open fireplace. The small stoep leads off the lounge and small bedroom and has a lovely view of the fields and valleys.

The accommodation can be viewed here:

<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/1051446358124144967> with various pictures available of the rooms on offer.

If there are more than 5 students, or many couples, we can hire other accommodation close by, within walking distance.

The workshops start on the first day at 8.30 am, and end on the fourth day after lunch. You are advised to arrive the evening before to settle into the new environment and be ready for the early morning start. I provide a free dinner on that night at the main house. It is a good time to get to know each other and share our creative ideas. The final day lunch is a bring-a-plate communal affair. You are welcome to stay the last night too; Vermaaklikheid is a difficult place to leave!

Prices: The workshop (4days) is R4000 per person. All materials are included. Please bring your own aprons and be aware that sculpting can mess up your clothing.

Accommodation prices:

Double bed bedrooms R700 per night for one person, and R200 pp extra (you may bring your spouse or partner) Shared single bed bedrooms R450 pp per night.

Smoking is not permitted in the houses, and I do request that smokers respect the other students and smoke far away from everyone. I also request no cell phone calls during workshop hours. There is no wi-fi on site, but good Vodacom reception so bring your mobile data with you. Bring your kayak, binoculars, bicycle, swimming costume, sun cream, sun hat and a long-sleeved shirt to protect yourself from the sun. There is no shop in Vermaaklikheid, so ensure that you bring all that you may need. The closest shop and fuel station is in Riversdale- a 35km gravel road trip. There is a coffee shop in Vermaaklikheid that is sometimes open over the weekends. Vermaaklikheid is a small rural 'hamlet' away from anything. It is very quiet, has a large variety of bird life, and amazing stargazing at night. The Duiwenhoks River is a gentle ox-bow river, with good fishing at the mouth. The river-mouth is a 10km drive from Swale View. There are lovely walks in the area, great gravel roads for cycling, and the public access to the river is a fifteen-minute walk from Swale View -great for an afternoon swim or a sundowner!

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us, and your choice of accommodation. Your place is confirmed once you have paid the 40 % required deposit. We all have things that happen, so I do have a cancellation policy in that if you cannot attend the dates you have chosen, I retain your deposit and you can book any other workshop within six months from the original booking. After that you will lose your deposit.

A bit about me Sheena Ridley:

I have painted and sculpted since childhood, and studied Fine Arts at Michaelis at the University of Cape Town. I worked as a set painter for CAPAB, the Cape Town base for the theatre at the Nico Malan, now Artscape, wonderful exploratory work learning about different materials effects and in large format. I restored antique porcelain with David Vickers.

I paint in oils, using the palette knife and brushes. I also sculpt in clay, plaster, wax and cement. You can see my work on my website www.ridley.co.za or Facebook Sheena Ridley or Instagram sheenaridley, or in my gallery in the Klein Karoo, the Langkloof Gallery and Sculpture Garden.

I have held a number of sculpture workshops at my studio in Noll over the last 8 years. They are great fun and my past students have shown a lot of appreciation and enjoyment of what they have learnt and experienced.

**DATES FOR WAX SCULPTURE WORKSHOPS AT VERMAAKLIKHEID,
WINTER 2024**

**22-24 August
10th-13th October
28th November-1st December**

**DATES FOR WAX SCULPTURE WORKSHOPS AT LANGKLOOF GALLERY
AND SCULPTURE GARDEN, NOLL. WINTER 2024**

**18th-21st July
5th-8th September
17th-20th October**

Please contact me if you have any queries. I look forward to hearing from you!
Regards Sheena

PS: I also offer Ferro cement sculpture courses (5 days), and Oil painting courses (3 days). Please email me if you would like details of these additional courses.

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