

Oil Painting Workshops with Sheena Ridley

These 3-day workshops offer self-catering accommodation on site and focus on the application of oil paint with the palette knife and brush. The numbers of students attending is kept to a maximum of 6 to ensure personal attention. These workshops may include painting outdoors. Plein-air painting is defined as painting in the landscape. Here you must work quickly to capture the light as it is at that moment. It is a rapid and fresh way to paint. I love working with the palette knife, and will show you methods and techniques of this tool.

Points of study that we will cover include:

Practicalities of working outdoors

Initial layout and composition

Tonal aspects and use of light

Mixing of oil paints with various solvents and mediums

Application of oil paints with the palette knife and brush

Refining of artistic skill and the use of new tools.

These workshops are held in beautiful picturesque farming areas,

Langkloof, 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.

Oil Painting Workshop 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-11.00 am painting in the landscape or the studio in the main house, coffee break, studio time at base till lunch 1-2 pm then an hour or so to complete the morning's work. Free time is from 3.30pm. Each day may be 3 hours in the landscape and 3 hours studio time. The studio time is in the studio with a fireplace if bad weather pulls in. If we have a bad weather day, we will do still-life painting.

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 third 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 (three days) is R2700 per person. Students bring their own materials- I will send you a suggested material list once you have booked your place.

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 OIL PAINTING WORKSHOPS AT VERMAAKLIKHEID

WINTER 2024

14th-16th June

28th-30th June

16th-18th August

4th-6th October

DATES FOR OIL PAINTING WORKSHOPS AT LANGKLOOF GALLERY NOLL

WINTER 2024

12th-14th July

2nd-4th August

27th-29th September

25th-27th 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 wax sculpture courses (4 days). Please email me if you would like details of these additional courses.

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