

**ART**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY RETREAT**  
A CREATIVE BREAKAWAY  
SWELLENDAM



*Xiao Yu Peng*

**MARTIN OSNER**  
PHOTOGRAPHY SCHOOL

## INTRO

Welcome to the enchanting world of art photography, where creativity knows no bounds and visions come to life through the lens of your camera. Nestled amidst the picturesque landscapes of Swellendam, our Art Photography Retreat beckons all photographers and artists alike to embark on a transformative journey of visual storytelling. This retreat is more than just a photography workshop; it's a breakaway, a reset if you like, offering you the opportunity to find your unique voice as a photographic artist. In the peaceful and tranquil environment of Swellendam, guided by the expertise of Father and Daughter duo, Martin and Samantha Lee Osner, you will refine your technical skills and explore the depths of your artistic expression. Join us as we delve into the heart of photography, creating moments that will forever etch themselves into the canvas of your memories, all against the backdrop of Swellendam's breathtaking scenery and rich culture. Join us on this extraordinary journey, and watch your creativity flourish.





## RELAX AND CREATE

Escaping the relentless pace of everyday life becomes a crucial ritual for revitalizing the soul and igniting the creative spark within. Nature's embrace offers a haven of serenity, where the clamor of modern life fades into the background, and the mind finds solace in the gentle whispers of the wind and the vivid hues of the natural world. In this tranquil sanctuary, creative minds flourish as the weight of stress and busyness dissolves, making way for inspiration to bloom. These moments of respite, cocooned in the embrace of nature's beauty, serve as a launching pad for the imagination, forging a deeper connection with the world.

Our art retreat, true to its name, provides a sanctuary where the noise of life is hushed, and creativity is nourished. Here, we cultivate an environment of peace and harmony, equipped with artistic tools that enable creativity to flow effortlessly, all within a backdrop of restful surroundings and a supportive community.

# BLANK CANVASES AND FRESH PERSPECTIVES: EXPLORING ARTISTRY IN FOUR DAYS



## Immerse Yourself in the World of Visual Expression

Throughout our four-day retreat, we embark on an exceptional journey into the realm of impressionist art photography. This workshop commences with a blank canvas, entirely devoid of any reliance on previous photographs. Instead, we fuse in-camera techniques with physical art techniques, resulting in the creation of extraordinary artworks through a truly transformative approach to photography. Our creative process unfolds both in the field and within the studio, offering participants the artistic license to explore and innovate

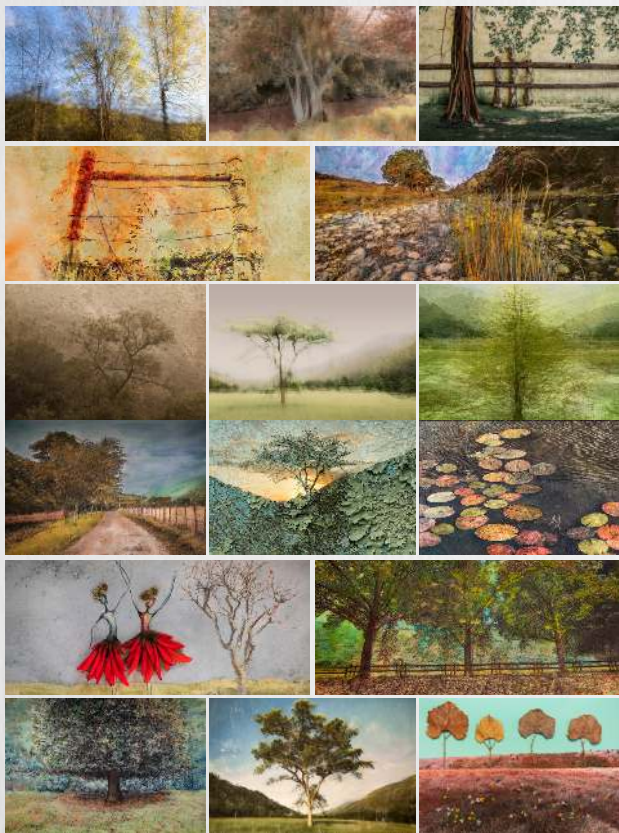


## PAINTING OR PHOTOGRAPHY?



The highest praise for a fine art photographer is when our work is compared to a classic painting. During this retreat, we delve into techniques that enable photography to merge seamlessly with alternative creative mediums, all while remaining firmly rooted in the realm of art. Ultimately, what truly matters is not the path we take to reach the final result, but the art itself and the pure joy of the creative process."

# SHOWCASE



# Techniques Explored

## IN CAMERA MULTIPLE EXPOSURE + ICM

ABSTRACT IMPRESSION



*Martin Osner*

Technique Explored

**IN-CAMERA MULTI  
EXPOSURE**

ABSTRACT EXPRESSION



*Xiao Yu Peng*



# Technique Explored

## IN CAMERA MULTIPLE EXPOSURE + ICM

ABSTRACT EXPRESSION



# Technique Explored

## **PAINT PRINT FUSION**

ABSTRACT EXPRESSION



# Technique Explored

## **PAINT PRINT FUSION**

ABSTRACT EXPRESSION



# Technique Explored

## ELEMENTUM SYNTHESIS - ART PRINT FUSION

ABSTRACT EXPRESSION



*Linda Carter*



## "Redefining Art Through a Lens"

A world within a world. This valley close to Swellendam allows you to immerse yourself into a crucible of river, trees and koppies.

The process that Martin and Sam take you through is creative, challenging and pushes you to the edge of what you know - and then beyond. Their way of working with you as individual and group redefines the boundaries of idea generation. Always in a way that takes you to the edge, leaving the decision to step across that threshold with you.

They, the group and one's own emerging inner voice make for a memorable experience. Step beyond what you thought might be possible, step into this space and place."

CRAIG O'FLAHERTY

September 2023



## ACCOMMODATION

### SELF CATERING COTTAGES

The accommodation is self-catering, and each chalet comes with its own fully equipped kitchen and bathroom. Towels are provided for your convenience. You will need to bring your meals and snacks with you. Breakfasts and lunches can be enjoyed in your own accommodation. However, each evening, delegates are welcome to bring their food to the Manor House, where a communal supper can be enjoyed as a group. A fire will be lit every evening for those who would like to braai (barbecue). Please note that the communal supper is optional.

Additionally, each chalet is equipped with an outdoor heated tub, so we suggest bringing your swimming costume and pool towels for relaxation.

If you have any further questions or special requirements, please feel free to contact us.

## EQUIPMENT

### Camera

You will need a DSLR or Mirrorless camera. Your camera must have a multiple exposure function.

### Filters

A neutral density filter, either fixed or variable. 3 to 8 stops are recommended.

### Lenses

16mm to 200mm, but no more than 400mm focal length is necessary. A macro lens is optional.

Tripod is optional

### Computer

A laptop or desktop computer with editing software.

### Art Materials

Art supplies are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer. You will need:  
Watercolour paint set  
Assortment of brushes  
Watercolour pencils

Printing services will be available at a nominal cost, so there's no need for you to bring your own printer or paper.





## 19-23 MAY '25 & 18 -22 AUGUST '25

ZAR 22500 +- 1150 US \$

Deposit 50%

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I just completed the Art Retreat at Swellendam. What an experience! It has been food for the soul and for creativity. The serenity and beauty abounds in that valley. But the real treat are Martin and Sam's generous sharing of knowledge, techniques and passion with other like minded photographers. When the voice in your head says....I can't.... then this is the retreat to go to. It will silence that voice and allow you to create and play.

**Ann Baret** (Sept '23)

I attended Martin and Sam's Swellendam Fine Art photography retreat. The valley is beautiful. Under Martin's skilled guiding hand it became possible to channel the spirit and essence of the natural splendour around us. It has changed the way in which I photograph. Thank you Martin, for the generous way in which you share your wisdom.

**Marcelle Morgan Stastny** (Sept '23)



## SAMANTHA LEE OSNER



*As a young and emerging artist, I am drawn to minimalism and exude a feminine style. I explore various mediums, including paint, transfers and overlays, to uniquely capture the world's beauty and nature around me. Through my art, I aim to reflect the simplicity and elegance in the natural world while also expressing my unique perspective and emotional response to the subjects I depict. My artistic process is driven by my innate curiosity and desires to create. I strive to create art that is not only aesthetically pleasing but also evokes emotion and creates a connection with the viewer. Art should not only be appreciated but also inspire and provoke thought. My goal is to continue pushing the boundaries of my mediums and constantly explore new techniques and ideas.*

## MARTIN OSNER



*On a winter's day in 1984 "photography" and I met quite by accident, an encounter that redirected my life and changed it forever. Over the past twenty-eight years, my methodology has taken numerous detours while walking a self-discovery path. It is a journey that has refined a relaxed subconscious attitude, with a desire to express simplicity and honesty through my work. For me, a photograph holds an undeniable sense of realism, a new correlation that allows for simple association and connection. I see, I understand; I experience, I connect. In my photography, I allow day-to-day life to provide inspiration and treat all subjects as potential compositions. I enjoy the conceptual transformation that a lens and camera offer. Although I have never been a dedicated painter, I see and experience the world this way.*

*Life is my canvas, and I often feel like a painter trapped in a photographer's body where lens and light have become an expressive substitute for paint and brushes. I usually create themes and grouping of images within my portfolio and, on a given day, find myself working on various projects at once, often taking years to complete. One of my great joys is using photography as a base to create mixed media pieces. I have adopted an intuitive approach without restriction to specific substrates, mediums or techniques. Emotion and experimentation drive my creative process, and I allow the final artwork to evolve rather than contain its finality. I intently concentrate on elemental form, rhythm and pattern in my work, allowing simplicity to engage visual impact.*

*I believe my steps have been guided along an inventive and purposed path by an awesome and caring God. I have never doubted my love for photography or my burning passion for art. It is something I could never stop. It's what I do; it's what I love; it's who I am.*