

22 – 26 Nov 2021

A FINE ART PHOTO RETREAT

with Martin and Samantha Lee Osner

C4

INTRODUCTION

For so many people, photography is about capturing reality as is and recording memories. But did you know that photography is one of the most exciting mediums in art today? Whether you want to draw, paint, or sketch, you should consider the camera the perfect tool to start an artwork.

Martin, assisted by his highly talented daughter, Samantha Lee Osner will show you that the photographic system is not as perfect as most people think. In this lies the opportunity to use the photographic process as an incredible platform to transform your photography into brilliant art!

In this on-location workshop, the camera is used as an instrument on the workbench to create art that extracts incredible artistic impressions and delivers photographs into a beautiful creative space. The program is taught on location in a beautiful natural valley over four days. It consists of lectures, practical demonstrations and feedback sessions along with personal mentorship. On this art retreat you will be taught how to transform your photography into art imagery fit for wall display. Digital techniques are also demonstrated, but only as a supplementary method.

This exciting art workshop does not require in-depth knowledge of photography; instead, it is more important that as a student, you desire to explore photography as an alternative creative medium within the framework of art.

Come and Join Martin and Samantha in exploring how the camera can be used as a tool in your artistic endeavour. This breakaway is an exploration of creativity, where multiple techniques are used to create artworks that Martin has used to create exhibitions globally.





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BIOGRAPHY – MARTIN OSNER

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa (1963), Martin Osner opened his first photographic studio in Johannesburg (1985), where he established a solid reputation as a professional photographer and artist. In 1993, he relocated to Pretoria and co-founded the National College of Photography, which today has become the premier photographic training institution in Southern Africa.

In 2008, Osner moved to Cape Town to establish a photographic art gallery, which opened its doors in 2010 under his name and devoted his total creative energy to his art.

Martin served as a Canon Ambassador / Explorer for seven years. Recently, in 2018 with his daughter, Samantha, they opened a private gallery in Hout Bay where they exhibit as a father-daughter collaborative.

Over the last twenty-five years, Martin has taught hundreds of students pursuing photography as a career and thousands of keen amateur photographers. Osner eschews “straight forward” photography in his work, favouring a more artistic vision that accords with his visual understanding and spiritual appreciation of the world. A multi-award-winning artist, his photography is characterised by an urge to explore, with the willingness to experiment underpinned by desire to create. Concentrating intently on elemental form, pattern and shape, paired with an inherent sense of restraint, he bears out his belief that simplicity is the cornerstone of successful imaging.



ARTIST STATEMENT

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, while walking a self-discovery path, my methodology has taken numerous detours. 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 a potential composition. 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 in 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 a variety of 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 resisting restriction to specific substrates, mediums or technique. Emotion and experimentation drive my creative process, and I allow the final artwork to evolve rather than containing its finality. In my work, I intently concentrate on elemental form, rhythm and pattern, allowing simplicity to engage visual impact.

I contribute my style to several artists and photographers. The great artist and photographer Henri Cartier Bresson have inspired my social commentary and documentary work, and the teachings of Ansel Adams have influenced my landscape photography. On the other hand, many of my still-life and abstract studies have been described as painterly expressionistic, drawing influences through Henri Matisse and late Jackson Pollock. In my spiritual walk, I experience hours of peace and contentment when behind the lens of my camera and in my studio, creating art.

I believe that 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.






ARTIST BIOGRAPHY AND STATEMENT - SAMANTHA LEE OSNER

I have been so fortunate to have not only found my passion in life but to have done so under the guidance and mentorship of my father, fine art photographer Martin Osner. After studying under him at his photography school, I was plunged into the depths of commercial photography almost instantly. I knew that I had to find my way, and the challenges that came with this genre of photography, as uncomfortable as it was, helped me learn a lot about lighting and problem-solving.

After several years, I started to dabble into my dad's art photography world and very soon, the bug bit, and it bit hard. It took a while to convince the old man to let me exhibit, but finally, in 2016, with my completed "Daydreams" collection of pinhole photography, he agreed. Lights, camera action and my career as an art photographer unfolded before me. Shortly after this, my father encouraged me to cease commercial work and invited me to join him in running the gallery and showcasing more of my work. 2018 was a big year for me as together, we opened a private gallery in Hout Bay to showcase our art.

My collections include landscape, fine art and mixed media prints in both limited and open editions. I am passionate about capturing the scene's beauty expressing minimalism, femininity, and elegance in my style. Instinctively, I know I have found my creative path, and I am blessed to work alongside my father.



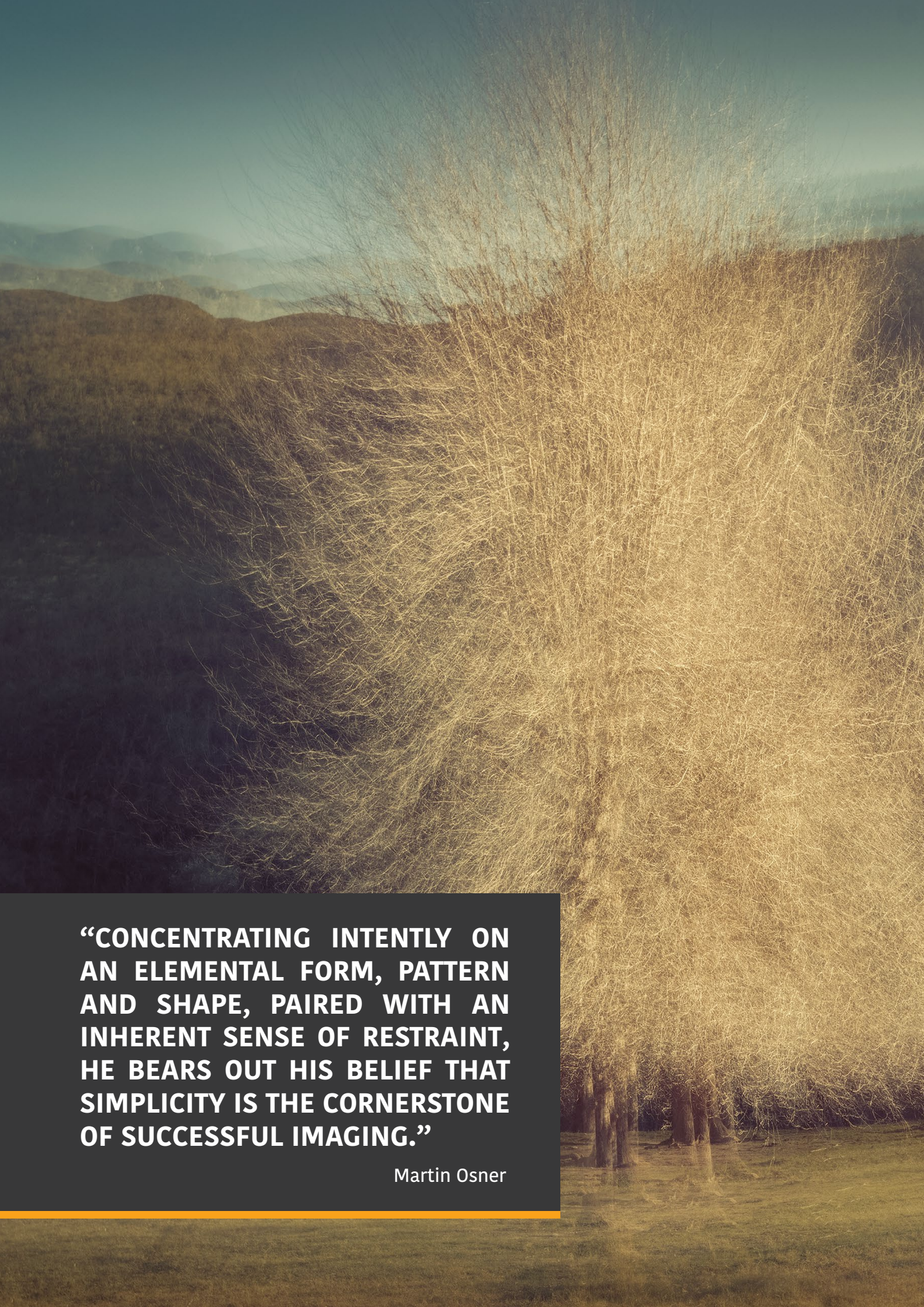


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HIGHLIGHTS

- Breakaway from the realities of life is a serene and relaxing environment as you discover the artist within yourself.
- use your camera as a creative medium
- Do you need to reignite your passion for photography?
- Learn from South Africa's most established Fine Art Photographers
- a four-day workshop that is guaranteed to take your photography to new heights
- Learn unique in-camera as well as mixed media techniques to transform your photography into exhibition quality pieces.
- The techniques taught in this workshop will help you to bring a painterly expression to your portfolio.
- Martin Osner will share this beautiful location with you, where he has photographed some of his most successful fine art prints.
- A secret valley of wide-open meadows where horses run free, a crystal clear river girded on either side by beautiful trees and forests a short walk from a gorgeous waterfall. This is an artist's paradise.





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ACCOMODATION

Somerset Gift Getaway Farm

This breathtakingly beautiful farm is situated just outside the historical town of Swellendam (the third oldest town in South Africa) in a lush green valley bordering the foothills of the majestic Langeberg Mountain.

The setting is simply idyllic, with stunning views of the mountain, green pastures where cattle and horses graze, a serene spring-fed lake, and the lovely Buffeljags River which runs the length of the property.

The farm has ownership rights to a few thousand hectares of pristine mountain ground with trails through indigenous forest and fynbos to magical mountain valleys, waterfalls and rock pools. Each season reveals its own secret beauty making the farm a special place to visit year round.



ABOUT

DETAILS

Date	22 – 26 Nov 2021
Tour	A Fine Art Photo Retreat With Martin And Samantha Lee Osner
Cost	R18,900 per person sharing. R21,500 per person single.

The workshop is limited to 7 minimum people and 10 guests maximum.

Due to the remote countryside location the accommodation available is self-catering. Detailed information about amenities will be sent out to guests prior to the workshop.

Please note: We will require that all guests participating in the workshop have a negative test 48 hours before the workshop.



NOTES

THE ABOVE COSTS INCLUDE

- 4 nights accommodation at Somerset Gift farm, near Swellendam, Western Cape.
- We have booked a variety of private rooms on the farm.
- All tutoring, teaching, presentations during the workshop
- Feedback sessions of your completed work



THE ABOVE COSTS EXCLUDE

- Transport to the location. Access can be attained with a sedan vehicle
- Meals during your stay. Each cottage has kitchen and cooking facilities. We will share all these prior to the workshop in order for you to prepare accordingly.
- Travel insurance. If you are a SA resident, medical insurance is adequate.
- A rapid Antigen test. We will require that all guests participating on the workshop have a negative test 48 hours prior to the workshop.

- ***Travel insurance is mandatory for all our safaris.***
- It is your own responsibility to obtain travel insurance for your travels. We strongly recommend an add-on policy 'Cancel for any reason coverage.'
- "Cancel for any reason" coverage is an add-on policy that reimburses a portion of your prepaid, forfeited and non-refundable trip payments and deposits. If you want the ultimate flexibility to cancelling your trip, whether it's because of a pandemic or just a change of mind.



Please read our Covid-19 protocol to familiarise yourself with South African tourism protocols. These policies are subject to change. C4 Photo Safaris PTY LTD is a facilitator of Safaris and the right of admission is at all times reserved to the guests of our lodge partners by prior booking.

All guests will be required to complete a C4 indemnity form together with a medical and travel declaration form.

All guests will be required to practice social distancing when in camp. Masks or face shields are compulsory in areas where social distancing is not possible.

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PHOTO SAFARIS

SHEM COMPION
(SOUTH AFRICA)

+27 82 063 9146

+27 (0) 12 344 6681

shem@c4photosafaris.com

www.c4photosafaris.com

