



Events that celebrate art have become a part of our landscape, and while taking a trip to some scenic location is a national ritual for many, sharing in art at these rural locations can be an invaluable experience.

Niel Jonker Spring 2010



While new occasions continue to arrive on the scene, some of these events have become near institutions. Such as Gerrit Burger's art celebration on his farm Steenbokfontein south of Lambert's Bay. Over a decade and a half of pursuing artists has led to an annual exhibition that never fails to surprise, and over the years I have seen the most masterful watercolours, prints, paintings and sculpture expertly displayed in the farm out buildings. The property extends onto the beach where nightgowns and wetsuits mingle happily, the opening night never failing to deliver one hell of a party.

4 to 20 September, 10 minutes south of Lambert's Bay.

Living in Baardskeerdersbos is a bit like taking part in that quirky TV show Northern Exposure, the one that opens with a moose aimlessly wandering the empty streets of a drab Alaskan village. The locals provide a steady stream of unintended entertainment by simply being themselves and in the process delivering odd insights into life's trials, always with dry humour and a healthy sense of self-effacement. Nature plays the quiet background role as visitors to the [Baardskeerdersbos Art Route](#) meet local and guest artists in their homes and studios. The dressed-down nature of this quirky and slightly edgy cape hamlet provides a suitable backdrop to the art displayed in artist's homes.

25 and 26 September, 20 minutes south of Stanford.



After the runaway success of the first series of [bread making workshops](#), The Sourdough Experience has been extended. With a new set of dates and added features, experience baking in an artisan bakery, a glass of wine in hand, and learn enough tips to open your own shop! Or at least impress your family with real bread, having explored the fundamentals and advanced principles of slow fermentation. Merriment on the stoep includes oven roasted lunches that reach a peak when the crusty hearth loaves emerge from the wood-fired oven.



I will also be on the road, joining in my family reunion at the equally idiosyncratic destination of Die Hel, the remote valley in the Swartberg where my grandmother visited as official photographer in the 1960's. But that's another story all together. This detour brings me instead to yet another art event in the landscape, the relatively recently established Karoo Klassique in Oudtshoorn. I will be exhibiting in my home town from 27 September to 3 October during this elegant and relaxed festival of mainly classical music, showing recent landscape oils and figures in bronze.

It is a special honour when exhibiting alongside art that displays technical ability, aesthetic understanding and human integrity. Events such as these draw artists and art lovers together, sharing in this most remarkable of human traits: the making of art. And so I have been assisting the [Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees](#) in establishing a quality fine art fair for contemporary artists that work in traditional media. Supported by the offices of this national arts festival, artists and curators are encouraged to apply for venues now.

