

PRINCE ALBERT

OPEN STUDIOS



AS FEATURED IN **ART TIMES**

PRINCE ALBERT OPEN STUDIOS

www.princealbertopenstudios.co.za

Over the years, art routes have sprung up around the country, covering a full spectrum of art offerings, from Sunday painters to leading contemporary artists showing their recent sought-after work in galleries. Each has a unique flavour, and while all are about the art, certain places seem to stand out from the rest, as hubs of inspiration and innovation, as if something in the air attracts more than its share of artists, creatives and colourful characters

One such place is the beautiful Karoo town of Prince Albert, which has become a noted hub of resident artists, many of whom are internationally respected.

For the past 3 years, the town has hosted the bi-annual Prince Albert Open Studios, brainchild of celebrated print-maker Joshua Miles and his wife, Angela, who were among the founding members of the popular Baardskeedersbos Art Route in the Overberg. When they moved to Prince Albert, they collaborated with resident artists and Brent Phillips-White, of Prince Albert Gallery, to set up a similar event there.

The idea was to offer local artists a chance to attract a wider following for their art, simultaneously bringing a personal interface to the business of creating and selling art, by allowing the artist to be present when something they have made resonates with someone else.

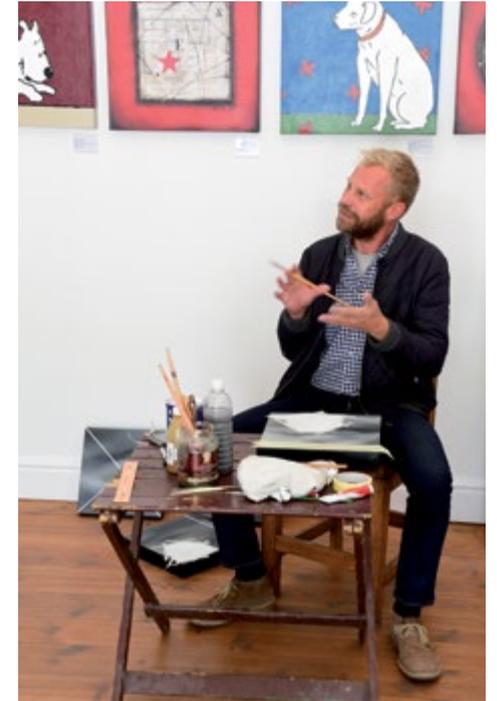
At the same time, art lovers and investors can enjoy a rare opportunity to meet the artists in their personal domains, and engage with them on a one-to one basis about their thoughts, methods and the 'heart' behind the art.

So, twice a year, for 4 days at a time, colourful bunting and sky-blue A-frame boards pop up in front of various venues around the town,





Louisa Punt-Fouche in her gallery



Kevin de Klerk explains his symbolism



Above: Cobus van Bosch in his studio. Opposite Page: Marieke Prinsloo-Rowe at work



Above: Group show at Prince Albert Gallery. Opposite Page: Joshua Miles-Albert College

marking the studios of approximately 28 diverse artists and a couple of galleries, which are opened to the public.

Prince Albert Open Studios has evolved into a unique and well attended art route, due largely to two factors.

First, it is consciously artist driven, a collaboration of creative minds. All decisions and direction choices are made by the group, without the influence of sponsors or individuals. This element of artistic independence, diversity and lack of regulation provides a tangible fresh dynamic to the art route.

Here, established and new names can be found exhibiting alongside one another.

As a result, visitors can find everything from ancient skills such as blacksmithing, weaving, calligraphy, woodcutting and etching, through a whole spectrum of painting in oils, mixed media and acrylics, both traditional and contemporary, photography, sculpture, found objects, assemblage, jewellery-design, land art, ceramics, and even some handcrafted knives, kaleidoscopes and functional art.

All the participants have one thing in common... that pioneering and independent spirit, which is fostered and tinged by the Karoo where they have chosen to live, and which permeates their everyday life and creative expression.

This leads us to the second factor, which is the Prince Albert experience.

It is dry and harsh, yet it is bursting with life, integrity, creativity, quirkiness and originality.

Set in the shadow of the majestic Swartberg mountains, this small town, with a larger-than-life presence, is an oasis in the heart of the arid surroundings.

The town exudes the authentic charm of old Karoo architecture, lovingly and respectfully restored, and has a noticeable creative energy which is hard to resist.

With ample accommodation and restaurants to suit all tastes, local produce and art and culture, all set in an adventure/scenic playground, Prince Albert deserves more than just a whistle-stop visit.





Prince Albert from The Kopje

“Prince Albert has become a noted hub of resident artists, many of whom are internationally respected.”

As a result, most visitors stay for at least two or three nights, to take in not only the art itself, but everything the surrounding area has to offer.

This makes all the difference to Prince Albert Open Studios, because it is transformed from an event, into an EXPERIENCE.

Apart from access to art studios, another aspect which enhances Prince Albert Open Studios, as an art route, is the collaboration with Prince Albert Gallery.

Owner Brent Phillips-White has always had a passion for showcasing local artists. During each Open Studios event, his gallery holds a group show, with one work from each participating artist, in addition to a few guest artists.

Visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend the exhibition opening, held the night before the studios open, where not only can they collect a route-map, but also identify the artists they particularly wish to meet.

This forthcoming Group Exhibition will take place in beautiful new premises, next door to the Seven Arches building, in Church Street.

PRINCE ALBERT OPEN STUDIOS

Friday 3 - Monday 6
JANUARY 2020 / 10am to 6pm

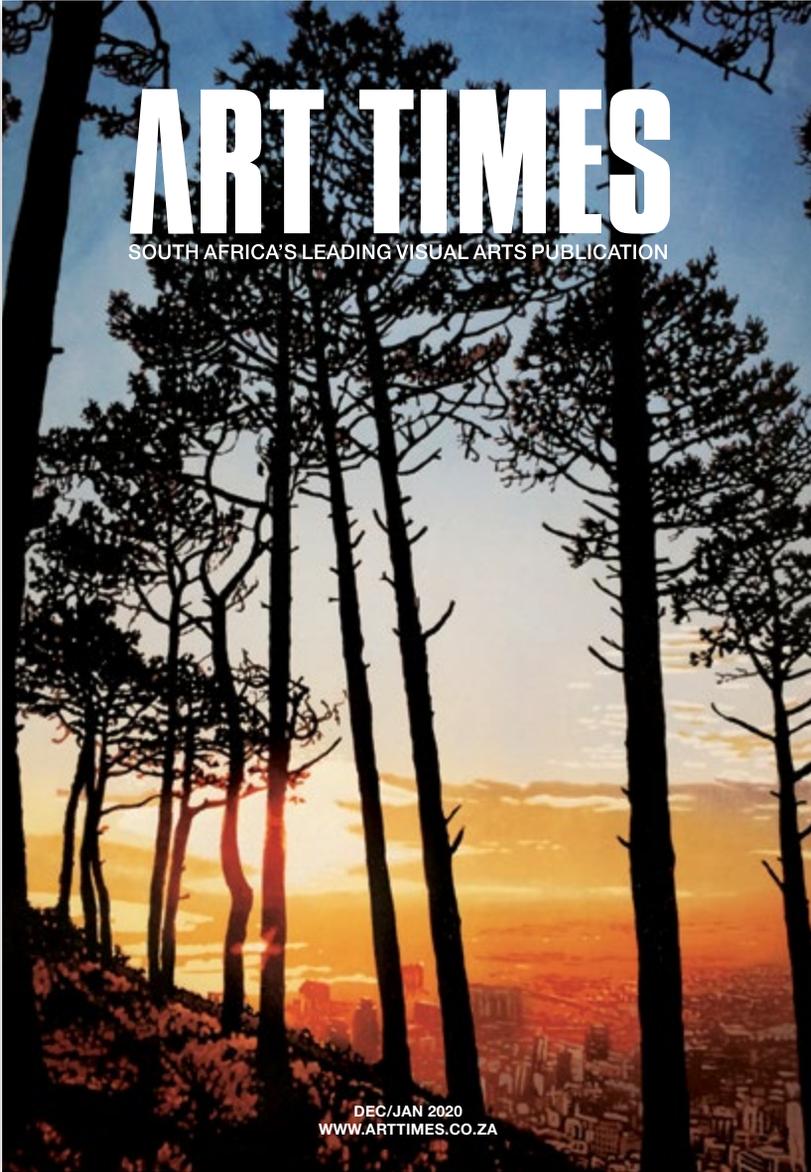
Book your accommodation early, to avoid disappointment. Details about the town and accommodation can be found at:
princealbert.org.za

For a full list of participating artists, and news of workshops and other events linked to Open Studios, please visit –

Website: princealbertopenstudios.co.za
Facebook: [facebook.com
princealbertopenstudios](https://www.facebook.com/princealbertopenstudios)
Instagram: [@prince_albert_open_studios](https://www.instagram.com/prince_albert_open_studios)
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