

Information for artists

Materials will be limited to those that have a natural resonance with the landscape. Steel, iron, stone, wood and earth are best suited, and define a common thread between the works as they "grow".

Materials will be brought to site or pre-assembled and then secured to the site. They should be durable against the elements so as to limit pollution and fragmentation. Use of leftover materials from AfrikaBurn, available at the Stonehenge 'scrapyard' is encouraged.

The Tankwa Karoo has an extreme climate - heat, sandstorms, high wind-speed; the artworks should be planned with these climatic conditions in mind. In order to become part of the landscape artworks should have a lifespan of 8-10 years, and age gracefully.

Artists can find information on our website on climate, history, flora/fauna and geology of the area, giving a wider understanding of the environment their works are created in. Interference with the natural configurations of the landscape - stone, plants and earth - is not encouraged. They are beautiful as they are and should continue to be left as a tribute to geological forces created over enormous timespans. Areas that have been disturbed by prior human intervention, such as old quarries/ waterholes/ pipelines, will be used and reimagined.

We expect artists to have respect for the place and its inhabitants, creatures great and small.

Artists own the copyright to their installations, however Tankwa Artscape and Tankwa Tented Camp may use images for publication.

Financial support

At this time, for the pilot artist camp in June 2018, we cannot offer artists payment. We offer limited financial support for material needed and limited transport for that. Bear in mind that Stonehenge is 130km away from the nearest shop, so any material needs should be planned well in advance. Pick-ups from and drop-offs at Cape Town airport, 4h away, can be organized.

Setting

The Karoo is rooted in Gondwanaland and lies on the largest plateau of its kind outside Asia. It covers almost 40 per cent of South Africa's land surface. The Tankwa Karoo landscape, with the high peaks of the Cederberg to the west and the Roggeveldberge to the east, is harsh and unrelentingly sun-seared, yet beautiful in its immense silence, solitude and peace. The vast plains surround you, and you can almost see the curve of the earth's surface as it merges with the distant horizon. It has many moods and its landscape can alter dramatically with the shifting seasons. During times of drought the earth becomes blackened under the relentless sunshine and the brittle Karoo bushes and plants crackle as you brush against them.

At night millions of stars are revealed in the inky blackness of the Karoo night sky. The Milky Way may be seen in all its splendour, and the Southern Cross, Orion and Scorpio are strewn across the sky. The views to the distant galaxies are almost unparalleled anywhere else on earth. Little wonder that the Karoo hosts the largest observatory in the southern hemisphere.

Archaeologists, anthropologists, botanists, ecologists, geologists, paleontologists and now, artists, come from across the world to study many aspects of this fascinating semi-desert.

Locations for artworks

Stonehenge Private Reserve is a nature reserve, therefore locations for artworks are carefully chosen so as to not disturb the unspoiled terrain. The selected sites are attractive and interesting in a variety of ways, and have all experienced prior disturbance or human intervention. Additional locations will be added over the coming years.

Water Reservoir

The area around the old water reservoir is a flat open plateau of mostly hard, stony ground with some sandy parts towards the two smaller reservoirs. The big reservoir has a diameter of appr 5m and is about 1.2m high. The ground close to the reservoir is disturbed by car tracks.



Riverbed

A small valley which is a run-off for rainwater with partly hard stony ground and soft sand. Vegetation consists of hardy small bushes and small trees. The ground is disturbed by car tracks. There are surprising and beautiful views towards the Cederberg.



Borehole

The borehole sits on a low hill looking into a riverbed-valley and onto many other hills on all sides. The ground is hard and stony, with sandy patches downwards to the valley. It has easy access with a pad leading to the site.

