

THYS WALTERS TO HOLD FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION AT VAN RYN'S DISTILLERY

Stellenbosch-trained artist and falconer Thys Walters, who is a protégé of renowned sculptor Dylan Lewis, will be exhibiting a series of sculptures and paintings on his first solo show, to be held at the Van Ryn's Distillery in the Vloottenburg Valley, close to Stellenbosch.

Walters, who has exhibited in Germany and the Netherlands, as well as on several group shows in the Cape, chose Van Ryn's for its tranquility, contemplative mood and accent on craftsmanship. He has selected 17 oils and 17 sculptures from the body of work he has been creating since 1992. These will be on show from October 10 to November 29, displayed against the backdrop of the distillery's impressive copper potstills.

His sculptures of birds of prey, dogs, reptile skulls and abstract pieces are produced in bronze, wood and sandstone, and exhibit the finely wrought detail that could only have come from his intimate exposure to wildlife. He has trained and handled eagles, hawks and falcons since childhood and regularly rehabilitates injured raptors. He has also trained birds for several local and international films, even once appearing with Jennifer Lopez.

He will be available, by prior arrangement, to lead visitors through the exhibition and will then also explain his bronze-casting technique and how he makes his original forms in wax to allow for very delicate surface working.

Visitors to the exhibition are also welcome to tour the distillery and taste the award-winning brandies produced on site. Van Ryn's has won the title for Worldwide Best Brandy on the International Wine & Spirit Competition in London, three times. The opening times are from 08:00 to 17:00 weekdays and 09:00 to 14:00 on Saturdays.

The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Distell Foundation which supports arts development in South Africa.

For more details, please call Van Ryn's Distillery on 021 881 3875.

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