

Curriculum Vitae Artisticum

Simone van Olst

Contact and profile

Simone van Olst *Sculptor | Sculpting instructor*

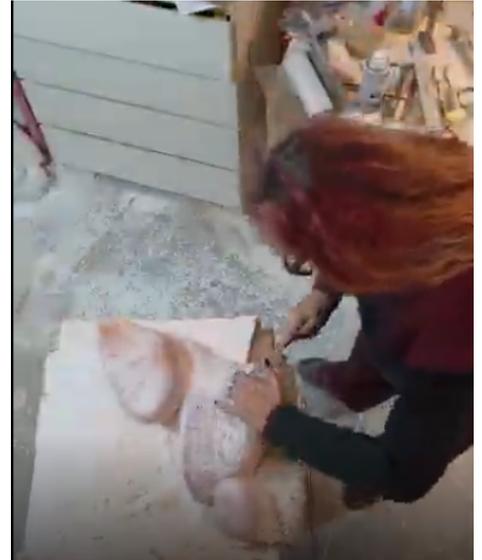
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Artistic vision

Simone van Olst creates an abstract diary in alabaster, with sculptures that read as a personal, emotional journey from early work to the present. Her work is a profound and unflinching exploration of human themes, driven by transformation, resilience, and sorrow, in which she does not hesitate to lay emotions bare. Fueled by a fast-shifting, creative database, she is co-owner of a renowned studio and has been inspiring people for 25 years to awaken their own creative core through stone.

Education

Simone van Olst is a primarily self-taught sculptor. Her profound expertise in alabaster is the result of intense self-study and an uncompromising personal drive, fueled by a lifelong fascination for three-dimensional art.

Studiomanagement & Art education

Since 2008

Since 2008 she has led her own sculpture studio in Leiden, beginning as the Foundation Art Collective De Mors (until 2014) and later under her own name. This has resulted in a unique didactic and pedagogical expertise in working with stone.

Visual Merchandising (IKEA)

1997 – 2010

Years of experience in professionally presenting and shaping 3D environments have sharpened her spatial awareness and eye for detail, directly applicable to the construction of sculptures

Visual Merchandising (Albert Heijn)

1993 – 1997

Further development of 3D insight, presentation, and commercial design within a dynamic environment.

HBO Marketing & PR

1992 – 1994

An academic foundation for essential communication and entrepreneurial skills, crucial for professionally running the studio and the Samstone webshop.

MBO Advertisement and Display

1986 – 1991

Early focus on visual communication and the fundamentals of 3D design.

Masterclasses & workshops

Ongoing

Continuation of professional deepening and artistic expansion, alongside her autodidactic practice in alabaster.

Professional experience and functions

Owner & sculpting instructor

Sculpting studio Simone van Olst & Samstone webshop

2015 – present

- Full responsibility for the daily management, artistic vision, and educational programs of the renowned studio in Leiden.
- Specialized courses in stone sculpture, particularly in alabaster, with a strong focus on the depth of abstract visual language and on awakening the creative potential of students.
- Co-founder and driving force behind Samstone, the DIY webshop for sculpting materials, created to lower the threshold for entering the craft and to widely share expertise.

Autonomous artist

2007 – present

- Focus on geometric, abstract, and realistic artworks in stone. Guidance from beginner to autonomous practicing artist; the work functions as an ongoing personal diary that fearlessly explores themes such as transformation, resilience, and sorrow.
- Regular participation in exhibitions and responsibility for the entire artistic process from concept to presentation.

Board member, organizer & lecturer

Literary Society Büchmania

2007 – 2013

- Active board member and organizer, responsible for coordinating the International Büchmania Day and organizing engaging association outings.
- Writing and overseeing the production of the society's private press books, as well as preparing and delivering various lectures.

Co-founder, chairperson, organizer & instructor
Studio de Mors & Foundation Artcollective de Mors
2008 – 2014

- Founding and leadership of the studio and the foundation, with the mission of making art and art creation locally accessible to residents.
- Organizer and driving force behind various large-scale projects, including outdoor art projects, open stages, theatre, and festivals, which increased the visibility and social engagement of the studio.
- Development of the current studio into an educational and creative breeding ground.

Sculpting instructor
Independant
2005 – 2008

- Start of the teaching career, during which the didactic skills and the method for conveying the love of stone were developed.

Exhibitions

Ongoing gallery representation

Year	Location	City, Country
Ongoing <i>Since 2017</i>	Gallery Sous-Terre	Lithoijen & Aalsmeer, NL
Ongoing <i>Since 2014</i>	Gallery Peter Groen Art	Mariënheem, NL
Ongoing <i>Since 2019</i>	Gallery Sluimer & van Olst	Leiden, NL

Solo exhibitions

Year	Title	Location	City, country
2013	Solo exposition	KNH Gallery	Haarlem, NL
2012	Solo exposition <i>Nieuwe energie</i>	Art Route Leiden	Leiden, NL
2012	Morslevend gaat OPEN	Studio de Mors	Leiden, NL
2011	Solo expositie	Aalmarkt Project	Leiden, NL
2010	Solo exposition <i>Including fotography</i>	Aalmarkt Project <i>Year 1</i>	Leiden, NL

Group exhibitions and fairs

Year	Event / Title	Location	City, country
2026	Marziart Paris	Marziart Internationale Gallerie	Paris, FR
2026	BiAF Waagnatie Expo	Waagnatie	Antwerpen, BE
2026	All things return to the sole	NDSM-Werf	Amsterdam, NL
2015 - 2026	Art Route Leiden	Various locations, including Gallery Sluimer & Van Olst	Leiden, NL
2014 - 2018	National Art Days	Ahoy Rotterdam / Van Nelle Fabriek	Rotterdam, NL
2012 - 2017	ADAF <i>(Annual Dutch Art Fair)</i>	Fashion center	Amsterdam, NL
2018	Art Route Benoordenhout	Public space	Den Haag, NL
2018	Exposition Park Oosterhout	Studio De Beeldhouwwerkplaats	Oosterhout, NL
2017	ADAF <i>(Annual Dutch Art Fair)</i>		Amsterdam, NL
2017	ADAF <i>(Annual Dutch Art Fair)</i>		Amsterdam, NL
2016	Groups exposition	Gallery of Anita Ammerlaan	Roosendaal, NL
2015	Artfair of Noord-Brabant	Gallery Sous-Terre	Lithoijen, NL

2015	Duo exposition	Nursing Home Van Wijckerslooth	Oegstgeest, NL
2015	Beelden vol betekenis	Sculpture garden Paradama Da Esperanza	Maria Hoop, NL
2014	Sculpture garden exposition	De Wildengaarde	Benschop, NL
2013	Group exposition	Sidac Studio	Leiden, NL
2013	Sculpture garden exposition	De Wildengaarde	Benschop, NL
2013	Sculpture garden exposition	De Lek in Beeld	Bergambacht, NL
2013	Regional Art Days	Various locations	Den Haag & Amsterdam, NL
2012	Art Fair at the Westeinderplassen	Evenementenhal	Aalsmeer, NL
2012	Regional Art Days	Various locations	Almelo & Tilburg, NL
2012	Art & Antigue Fair <i>ZIEN!</i>	Grote Kerk	Den Haag, NL
2011	Group exposition	Woonmall Alexandrum, Gallery Tegendraads	Rotterdam, NL
2011	Group exposition	Morsfestival	Leiden, NL
2011	Group exposition	Openmakers aan de Markt	Leiden, NL

2009	Group exposition <i>Red Bull 5 Pics</i>	Giant screens CS	Leiden & Utrecht, NL
2008	Book presentation: <i>herinnering aan een landschap</i>	OBA Amsterdam	Amsterdam, NL
	And Book presentation: <i>geestgrond van Boudewijn Büch</i>	Wassenaar	Wassenaar, NL

Nominations

Year	Category	Result	Explanation
2011	VIVA Succesvrouw	Nomination	Recognition for entrepreneurship and impact within the creative sector.
2009	Red Bull 5 Pics	Nominated	Selected for the <i>Night Edition</i> project, exhibition on mega-screens at Leiden & Utrecht Central Station.
2009	Red Bull Pics	Nominated	Selected for the <i>Day Edition</i> project, exhibition on mega-screens at Leiden & Utrecht Central Station.

Commissions and collections

Corporate and governmental collections

Works by Simone van Olst are included in the collections of various organizations and governmental institutions, underscoring the social and professional relevance of her abstract work.

- Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, NL (multiple commissioned sculptures)
- Het Parkhuis, Dordrecht, NL
- Physiotherapy Consortium Holland, NL
- Various Ministries, NL

Executed commissions

Selection of specialized commissions that demonstrate the depth and trust in her artistic practice:

- Memorial monuments and urn objects: 15 commissioned sculptures for commemorative purposes.
- Garden sculptures: 21 sculptures for private gardens.
- Private commissions: 86 bespoke sculptures for private collections.

International private collections

- More than 380 works included in private collections in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, England, Canada, and South Africa..

Publications, media and literature

Authorship and books

Year	Title	Role / Publisher
2025	Schets naar Beeld	Author (Simone van Olst)
2024	De kunst van anatomisch beeldhouwen	Author (Simone van Olst)
2023	Natuur in beeldhouwen in steen	Author (Simone van Olst)
Since 2008	Blog Author	Writes over 10 blogs weekly (5 for simonevanolst.nl and 5 for samstone.nl), with more than 25 additional articles for external platforms.
2015 - 2013	Jaarboek kunstenaars	Mention
2013 - 2009	Beeldende kunst in Nederland (Volume 1 through 5)	Mention
2012	Kleurmakers	Mention (Renzo Candino)
2011 - 2007	Kunstgids, Kunst met een kus, Kunst naar hartelust, Een ontmoeting met kunst, Leve de kunst	Various mentions and publications

2008	Herinnering aan een landschap	Author (Simone van Olst)
2008	Geestgrond van Boudewijn Büch	Co-Author (Simone van Olst and Karin Piters)

Media appearances and interviews

- 10+ television interviews: Appearances discussing her own sculptures and large-scale public art projects..
- 25+ radio interviews: Conversations about her artistic practice and project management in the arts.
- 100+ articles: Extensive coverage of the studio, art projects, and autonomous work in various Dutch newspapers and magazines.
- 75+ academic interviews: Guest appearances and interviews for students at both higher professional education programs (social) and art academies, confirming her role as expert and mentor.

Lectures, workshops, and other activities

Lectures and academic presentations

Year	Subject	Location / Organisation
2024 - present	Guidance of Mastermind group: Supporting semi-professional sculptors in their development toward becoming professional sculptors.	Various locations
2024 - present	Lecture: Henry Moore	Various locations
2023 - present	Lecture: Jean / Hans Arp & Sophie Taeuber-Arp	Various locations
2022 - present	Lecture: Barbara Hepworth	Various locations
2022 - 2023	Lecture: Organic Forms	Windesheim Hogeschool, Vormgeving (Almere)
2015 - 2019	Guidance of Top Class students: Mentoring students toward professional sculpting.	Beeldhouwatelier Simone van Olst
2008 - 2015	Lectures on Boudewijn Büch	Diverse bibliotheken, stichtingen en leesclubs

2008	Book presentation & lecture: <i>Herinnering aan een landschap</i> (<i>Memory of a Landscape</i>)	OBA Amsterdam
2008	Book presentation & guided walk with lecture: <i>Geestgrond van Boudewijn Büch</i> (<i>Spirit Ground of Boudewijn Büch</i>)	Wassenaar, NL

Educational Practice: Workshops and Masterclasses

- 100+ masterclasses: Developer and instructor of specialized multi-day masterclasses, including anatomical and botanical sculpture, Sketch to Sculpture, and the unique Chaos Notebooks method (transforming chaos into structured creation).
- 1000+ workshops (weekly): Regular, thematic workshops (flowers, torsos, mathematical forms such as the oloid, lemniscate, and Möbius strip) in her own studio.
- 500+ external workshops: Delivered for various companies, foundations, schools, and institutions throughout the Netherlands.
- 2022–2023: Masterclasses in Organic Forms for second-year students at Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, Design program.
- Intensive mentorship of Top Class students toward professional sculpting careers (2015–2019).
- Intensive mentorship of the Mastermind group of semi-professional sculptors (2024–present).

Artistic projects and memberships

Year	Activity	Role / Explanation
2012 - 2020	Membership	NABK (National Association for Artists)
2009 - 2014	Chairperson	Foundation Art Collective de Mors (Organizer van outdoor art, theatre and festivals)

2007 - 2013	Board member	Literary Society Büchmania
2013	Installation <i>Tegenslag</i>	Outside at Sidac Studio, Leiden
2012	Installation <i>Urban Knitting Art Project</i>	5 km of artworks for the Serious Request House Project, Glazen Huis
2012	Installation <i>Leiden bloeit</i>	Public space, Leiden
2011	Installation Aalmarktbrug	Public space, Leiden

Other Relevant Information

Unique profile features

Simone van Olst approaches her artistry from a unique, fast-switching perspective. She views her ADHD as a powerful, creative database that generates unexpected connections and innovative forms within her work. Her layered, in-depth working method is captured in the 'Chaos Notebooks' method she developed a proven way to structure complex inspiration.

Languages, materials, and areas of expertise

- Language proficiency: Dutch (native), English (fluent)
- Specialized materials: Alabaster (primary), marble (secondary), soapstone, serpentine, selenite
- Expertise: Advanced alabaster sculpting, delivering lectures on significant sculptors, technique, and conceptual practice, translating emotional processes into abstract form
- Technique: Taille directe (direct carving) based on her own concepts or commissioned work.

Co-creation and partnership

- Shared artistic practice with Alex Sluimer: Co-creation of the joint Samensmelting series (since 2015).
- Collaborative commission: Evil Flowers sculpture with Fabian van Biene.
- Artistic projects: Co-creation on various large-scale installations.

References

- References are available upon request.