



VOLMOED FARM 11  
HEMEL AND AARDE VALLEY  
ROAD (R320)

GPS:  
34/22/40S 19/14/3.7E



Telephone 028 312 1282/083 613 7465

Email [admin@volmoed.co.za](mailto:admin@volmoed.co.za)

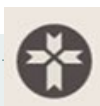
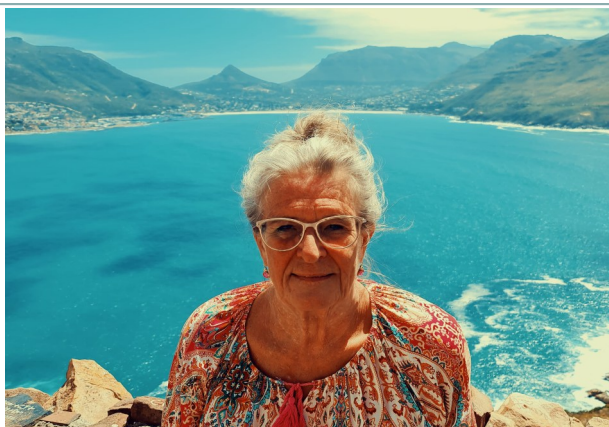


ICON  
COURSE & RETREAT

@  
VOLMOED  
22 FEBRUARY  
to  
27 FEBRUARY  
2026

Presented by  
Charlotte Weppenaar Pedersen





Charlotte Weppenaar Pedersen is Danish, lives in Denmark, and is an iconographer (icon painter). She is certified by her teacher, monk and icon painter Gregorios, from Nea Skete on Mount Athos in Greece, who taught her for 25 years. She originally trained as a pedagogue, psychotherapist, and meditation teacher.

Charlotte is the director of the Icon School in Denmark ([www.ikonskole.dk](http://www.ikonskole.dk)) since 2000 and a co-author of the book "At Skrive en Ikon" (To Write an Icon), published in Denmark and the Netherlands.

Charlotte also lived in Cape Town for 28 years with her South African husband, Allan Weppenaar, and has worked with street children, children affected by AIDS, and SOS children.

She has written icons for St. George Cathedral, for the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his family, and the Nelson Mandela family. Charlotte wrote a beautiful Transfiguration icon for the Volmoed Chapel.

Since 2000, she has held 10-12 icon courses a year at her school, as well as in Greece and at Carmelite monasteries in Sweden and Denmark, and hosted many educational groups. Charlotte has taught in many churches in Denmark and Cape Town.

We are privileged to welcome Charlotte to Volmoed for this course.

### WHAT THE COURSE OFFERS

The icon image is the oldest art form in Christianity. On the course, you will learn to write an icon, and become acquainted with the almost two thousand-year-old craft. The icon represents the journey from darkness to light, both inwardly and outwardly. The focus is on the mystical, the archetypes, repetition, immersion, humility, and prayer, in the form of sincerity, silence, and the message of love.

Emphasis will be placed on meditation and heart prayer in preparation, which will help guide your hand to be led by the divine. During the painting process, you will learn to immerse yourself in presence.

The course includes step-by-step introduction and basic techniques.

You will paint one of the following:

Jesus Christ  
The Praying Mary  
The Praying John the Baptist  
Mary Magdalene  
Angel Gabriel  
Angel Michael

You will learn how you can use your icon in your practice and prayer.

We will be working on chalk-primed wooden boards with authentic egg tempera paints, which we will mix ourselves, and gold and gilding with 23.75 carat gold leaf. All of this is done with fine brushes and delicate strokes. Immersion in color symbolism.

The board is 21 x 28 cm on chalk-primed gesso.

Max 8 participants.



### *Program for the Icon Course:*

**Arrival Sunday afternoon:** meet with the group, introduction to the course, possibly start sanding the panel.

**Monday from 10am to 6 pm:** blessing and meditation, transfer the motif, and apply gold.

**Tuesday from 10 am to 6 pm:** begin painting the deep and dark colors with pigment and egg tempera, and lines.

**Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm:** begin 1-2-3 highlights on clothing and the edge.

**Thursday from 10 am to 6 pm:** eyes, mouth, highlights on faces 1, 2, 3, and hair, 1-2-3 highlights.

**Friday from 10 am to the afternoon:** completion of the icon and varnishing.

The icon writing process will be accompanied by daily Eucharist and devotional prayer services, led by the Benedictine brothers, Prof John de Gruchy and Wilma Jakobsen. Participants have the option of joining the Benedictine brothers' prayer services that take place outside the times of the course sessions.



**Date:**

**Sun 22 February – Friday 27 February 2026**

**Venue: Volmoed Retreat Centre, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley (near Hermanus)**

**Accommodation: Single rooms (twin or double beds) in guest houses or cottages with two or three rooms**

**Cost: Contact the Volmoed Office—[admin@volmoed.co.za](mailto:admin@volmoed.co.za) for Cost of registration fee, accommodation and meals**

**Materials: R 600 per person**, for the board, gold, and other materials, to be paid to Charlotte.