



Artist Retreats and Workshops in Sauveterre de Béarn

MATERIAL MATTERS:

CONTEMPORARY FIBER SCULPTURE WORKSHOP RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2024

with Jacqueline Mallegni

Workshop Retreat:

Bring your creative ideas and immerse yourself in the tranquil beauty of an ancient French village for a SIX-DAY FIBER SCULPTURE Residential Workshop Retreat. Listen to the natural beauty around you. Let it guide your creative spirit! All skill levels are welcome to attend.

Do you love the concept of materiality? This residential workshop retreat will allow you to dive into your creative process by using flax fiber and other materials to manifest what is deep inside into three-dimensional expressions. We will transform flax fiber into textured paper and build armatures for paper applications. We will use indigo and plant-based stains for surface embellishment. Although these materials may seem simple, with time and patience in a calming retreat setting you will be surprised at what they can become.

This is an all-inclusive workshop retreat experience. Materials, lodging, and meals are included in the fee.



Registration:

A non-refundable 500€ deposit is required to secure your space. For a friendly sharing environment, the space is limited to 10 participants. The balance is due by May 22.

Total fee: 3500€

Please register by contacting Magdalena Groszek, director of Be-artz.com to register. She will arrange individual meetings with you to go over details about the location, meals and lodging information.

Contact info:

Magdalena at +33613425318 or email : admin@be-artz.com

Contact info:

Jacqueline at paper.rain.studio@gmail.com with questions about the workshop details and materials etc.



Details:

Arrive at **A Boste** on Sunday, September 22 to settle in, meet new friends, and enjoy a delicious meal together. The workshop will begin Monday morning through Saturday afternoon.

We will conclude our sessions on Sunday after breakfast with time to share our experiences.

Location:

A Boste is an ancient castle converted into a guest house or chambres d'hôtes in Sauveterre-de-Béarn, a medieval village perched above the Gave d'Oloron and facing the Pyrenees in south-western France. Be-Artz.com is a non-profit association that has become the foundation for a society of local artists in Béarn. All income is reinvested in the buildings and art projects.

Although Béarn is a French village and a 'Bonjour' is appreciated as you walk past people, English is spoken and understood by many and is very friendly to foreigners. The village is on the Camino so you may encounter backpacking pilgrims walking on their way to Santiago de Compostela.

As you approach **A Boste** and its tower at the entrance of the village you will find a stone spiral staircase leading up to the top of the tower with its 360-degree view over the landscape. The skies and the views are spectacular. The village is set on a cliff overlooking the river Gave d'Oloron, and the Pyrenees mountains. There is a walking trail to the river that is great for swimming and the mountains are a 30-minute drive.

There is an island in the river which is accessed by a footbridge. The island's natural setting is a lovely place for a half-mile walk. There are other walking trails along the river and to chapels.

Also, there are sun loungers and a bar by the river for those who want a holiday atmosphere, with paddle boards and kayaks available.

The village offers a bakery, an organic grocer, two pharmacies, a butcher shop, and a gift shop. There is a restaurant and two cafés.

Retreat Facilities:

There are seven bedrooms available in **A Boste** with additional accommodation from friends in the village. We have a four-bedroom house and a two-bedroom apartment available. Meals for the workshop are catered with delicious local food prepared by artisan chefs.

What to bring:

- Hand clippers and garden gloves
- Layered clothing for various weather conditions
- Hiking boots
- Swimwear
- Towels and sandals
- Sunscreen and hat and mosquito repellent



ARRIVAL/TRANSPORT to Sauveterre de Bearn

There is a train station at Puyoo and Orthez. There is a bus from those stations to the village, but it's only three times a day. I have an arrangement with a local taxi service that can pick you up from the train station or the airport.

I recommend checking train and bus schedules on www.rome2rio.com for transport options.

BIARRITZ, on the Atlantic coast, is closest airport and the one where I have a local taxi 'deal' for 65€. The meter fare is closer to 200€.

You can take the TGV from Paris (4 hours with 9 trains daily) and connections to Bayonne, Toulouse, Bordeaux.

Bayonne about 40 mins away; Toulouse and Bordeaux 2 hours.

There is a bus from Bayonne to St Palais, where you can be picked up, it's only about 7 miles away.

The taxi service is run by Melanie, so look for that sign/board at the airport, **TAXI MELANIE. Her number is +33769362231**

If you want to book directly, send her a text message with your needs in English, she can use google translate.

If you look at <https://www.flightconnections.com/flights-to-biarritz-big> you will see there are about 20 European destinations for Biarritz, so flights from the US can be via other cities than Paris if it suits you and might be less expensive. Also you can connect Madrid to San Sebastián or Bilbao. One hour and 15 mins drive or 2 hours. There is a bus from Bilbao airport to San Sebastián and you can be collected from there, or take a train.

Bilbao has a wonderful Guggenheim museum, so if you want a few days before or after to be a tourist it's recommended. As is Bordeaux, which is very beautiful and lively. And of course has fabulous wine tasting.

Lourdes airport is about an hour and 15 mins away, there are summer direct flights from San Francisco!

STEPS-STAIRS

The village is built on a cliff and the Guard House/A BOSTE has steps to the entrance and the large workshop is on the third floor (4th American) up a spiral staircase. The tower is even higher. Sadly it's not a place for those with mobility issues. All the bedrooms are at least up one floor, and although there can be a workshop on the 'ground' floor, it's also up some steps. To get to the river it's also a fairly steep road, or steps, although a car can be taken if needed.

INSURANCE

Please purchase travel insurance No refunds are given, but we will try to replace your place or you can find a replacement. There are doctors in the village and a small hospital about 8 miles away.

SHIPPING

You may ship materials to **A Boste, 3 rue Leon Berard, Sauveterre de Bearn, France, 64390**. Please be aware that there may be duty fees if you ship from outside Europe. I believe there is now an art shop in St Palais, about 8 miles away, and you can order materials online at <https://www.boesner.fr/>.

**For Jacqueline's workshop all materials are included in the fee.

OTHER FAQs

There is wifi in the building. The Guardhouse internet, password Gu4rdh0us3

The weather is temperate, but as we know climate is weird at the moment. There can be heat waves and rain. Bring a variety of clothing, for rain and sun! It can be warm until Christmas, but nothing is predictable. It is generally not too hot at night fortunately.

There can be mosquitos, so bring some repellent. And maybe sunscreen. Soap and hairdryers are provided.

Plugs are two pin round European, 220 V.

Bring swimming costumes if you like to swim in the river, it's wonderful. Bring good comfortable shoes.

I can organize visits to the grottos and caves with Taxi Melanie. They are spectacular. Or to the mountains etc. especially on weekends.

There is car hire available at nearby villages. Or at Biarritz airport.