

CONTACT US

Pieter de Klerk
+27 (0)72 632 6122
pieter@naturesmirror.co.za

Julia Prinz
+27 (0)82 808 3670
julia@naturesmirror.co.za



PORTFOLIO





THE PHASA
FOUNDATION



PIETER
DE KLERK

RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 TAXIDERMIST OF
THE YEAR AWARD

We respect each animal,
regardless of size, and
take the time to create the
most realistic mounts and
mirror natural features to
bring them back to life.



African Lion

(*Panthera leo melanochaita* – Smith, 1842)

The African Lion, also known as the Southern or Southeast African lion, is one of the “Big Five”. As a dominant apex predator, this subspecies is renowned for its power, courage, and social hunting behavior. Lions have long been feared and revered, with their ability to charge at close range making them one of the most dangerous animals encountered by hunters on foot.

Average shoulder height is 120 cm (47”) and average weight is 190–225 kg (419–496 lbs) for males.

SCI minimum score: 23”



Full Mount

Spotted Hyena

(*Crocuta crocuta* – Erxleben, 1777)

A large and powerful carnivore found in savannas, grasslands, and woodlands across sub-Saharan Africa. The colour of its coat is sandy-yellow to grey, marked with distinctive black or dark brown spots. It has a robust build, a sloping back, and strong jaws capable of crushing bones. Spotted hyenas are highly social and live in matriarchal clans that can consist of up to 16-40 animals. Their vocalizations include the famous "laugh", as well as whoops, grunts, and growls used for communication.

Average shoulder height is 80 cm (31"), and the average weight is 50-86 kg (110-190 lb).



Full Mount



Full Mount



Cape Buffalo

(Syncerus caffer – Sparrman, 1779)

The Cape Buffalo is one of the so called "Big Five". The "Big Five" was the term used by hunters for the 5 most dangerous animals to hunt on foot in Africa. It is said that the Cape Buffalo is responsible for more deaths of big game hunters than any of the other of the so-called Big Five. For this reason, the Cape Buffalo is sometimes also referred to as "The Black Death" or "Widow-maker".

Average shoulder height is 145 cm (57") and average weight is 700 kg (1543 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 100"

Pedestal Mount



Pedestal Mount

Cape Eland

(Taurotragus oryx – Pallas, 1766)

Eland is the world's largest antelope, in contrast the Eland is also the world's slowest antelope with a running speed of hardly 40 kmph (25 mph).

Eland can be found in early rock art of East Africa and find a distinct place in some South African tribes' mythology.

Average shoulder height is 1.7 m (6 feet) and an average weight of 800 kg (2200 lb).

SCI minimum score: 77"



Wall Pedestal Mount

Burchell's Zebra

(*Equus quagga burchelli* – Gray, 1824)

Roaming the grasslands of eastern and southern Africa the Burchell's Zebra, also known as the "common" or "plains" zebra is the most widespread species of zebra.

Their black and white stripes are unique and are as distinctive as human fingerprints. It is thought that the white and black stripes of a zebra help keep them camouflaged, as it can distract and confuse any predator such as lions.

Zebras move in herds, also called a 'dazzle of zebra.'

On average the plains zebra weigh almost 320 kg (710 lbs) and have a shoulder height of 1-1,4 m (3,5-5 ft).



Pedestal Mount



3D Africa Mount



Wall Pedestal Mount

Kudu

(*Tragelaphus strepsiceros* – Pallas, 1766)

"THE GRAY GHOST" is how Ernest Hemingway referred to this magnificent species of the African bushveld.

This spiral-horned antelope is one of Africa's largest and most admired plains game. The Kudu reaches an average shoulder height of 150 cm (59") and an average mass of 250 kg (550 lbs). Locals measure the estimated length of the spiral horns by counting the amount of turns the spirals have. The average turns measure in the region of 2½. Some horns reach 3 full turns. Such a measurement is regarded as an exceptional specimen.

Average horn length is between 43-55".

SCI minimum score: 121"



Shoulder Mount



Zulu Shield Mount



3D African Mount



Full Mount



Combo Pedestal Mount

Black Wildebeest

(Connochaetes gnou – Zimmerman, 1780)

Also known as the “clown of the bush”, the Black Wildebeest displays clown-like behaviour. More commonly known as the “White-Tailed Gnu” because of its distinct horse-like white tail and “Gnu” being a Khoisan (people native to southwestern Africa) name for this antelope, which originated from the snorting sound they make, sounding like “ge nu”.

Average shoulder height is 120 cm (47”) and average weight is 180 kg (397 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 72”

Blue Wildebeest

(Connochaetes taurinus – Burchell, 1823)

Also known as the “poor man’s Buffalo” and, more commonly, the “Brindled Gnu”. “Brindled Gnu” is often used because of the dark bands over the shoulders and flanks, which give it a brindled appearance. “Wildebeest” is derived from the Dutch language, meaning “wild cattle”.

The Blue Wildebeest is one of Africa’s largest antelope with unridged horns that curve up and backwards and display a distinct knob (base). Although both males and females grow horns, males have larger and heavier horns.

Average shoulder height is 147 cm (58”) and an average weight of 245 kg (540 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 70”



Combo Pedestal Mount



Shoulder Mount



Combo Pedestal Mount



Porcupine

(*Hiystrix africae australis* – Peters, 1852)

This spiky critter is nocturnal and part of the rodent family. Contrary to popular belief, the porcupine does not eject its quills but rather turns its back to danger, which the predator will then run headlong into. When threatened they rattle their tail quills. Being nocturnal, it requires great patience to hunt it.

Average length is 80 cm (32") and average weight is 25 kg (55 lbs). It is one of the largest rodents in the world.

Full Mount



Full Mount

Roan Antelope

(Hippotragus equinus – Desmarest, 1804)

This large antelope is the third biggest antelope on the African plains. It has a very distinctive facial mask, similar to the gemsbuck, hence the Afrikaans name “bastergemsbok”. Both males and females have scimitar-like horns and long ears. Males form bachelor herds, but solitary bulls with breeding herds are also common.

Average shoulder height is 147 cm (56”) and average weight of 250 kg (550 lb).

SCI minimum score: 67”



Combo Pedestal Mount

Sable Antelope

Sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger* – Harris, 1838)

“Sable”, the word in Heraldic terms for “black” was used in this case to describe the dominant color of the adult bulls with their shiny black coats. This proud, majestic and magnificent antelope with exceptional horns is one of Africa’s most sought after by game hunters.

Average shoulder height is 140 cm (55”) and an average weight of 235 kg (518 lb).

SCI minimum score: 96”



Waterbuck

(*Kobus ellipsiprymnus* - Ogilby , 1833)

Locally, the Waterbuck is known as a "Kringgat". "Kring" meaning 'circle' and "gat" meaning 'rear'. The Waterbuck carries a distinct white circle on its rear. Legend also holds that the Waterbuck might have been the first animal to use the freshly painted toilets on Noah's Ark, thus leaving a white ring of wet paint on its rear.

Average shoulder height is 130 cm (51") and average weight is 240 kg (529 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 67"



Shoulder Mount

Gemsbuck

(Oryx gazella, Linnaeus, 1758)

The Gemsbuck, also known as an "Oryx", symbolises the spirit of the Namib Dessert and can be found in many early bushman rock drawings. The Oryx is regarded as one of the most handsome antelope and is also highly adaptable to its dry, hot, and arid surroundings. Legend has it that the myth of the unicorn may have originated from a one-horned Oryx.

Average shoulder height is 120 cm (47") and an average weight is 220 kg (485 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 81"



Wall Pedestal Mount

Red Hartebeest

(*Alcelaphus buselaphus caama* – E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1803)

Also known as the Cape Hartebeest, this large African antelope has a very gawky and odd looking appearance, but don't be fooled as it is one of the fastest and most wary antelope on the African plains. With their characteristic zig-zag running pattern when alerted, these antelope can reach speeds of up to 65 km/h. Both males and females being reddish brown in color and bearing horns, make it difficult to tell apart.

Average shoulder height is 130 cm (51") and an average weight of 150 kg (330 lb).

SCI minimum score: 62"



Nyala

(*Tragelaphus angasii* – Angas, 1849)

The Nyala, part of the spiral – horned family is probably the most elegant antelope of the African bush. The Nyala shows the highest sexual dimorphism among the spiral – horned family. Because of the large difference between Nyala males and females it is used as a divider between large and small antelope. Any male antelope larger, including the male Nyala is referred to as a “Bull” and any male antelope smaller is referred to as a “Ram”. Whereas any female antelope larger than the female Nyala is referred to as a “Cow” and any female antelope smaller, including the female Nyala is called “Ewe”. Bull > Nyala Bull < Ram; Cow > Nyala Ewe < Ewe.

Average shoulder height is 112 cm (44”) (Male) and 95 cm (37”) (Female).

Average weight is 120 kg (265 lb) (Male) and 60 kg (132 lb) (Female).

SCI minimum score: 63”



Red Lechwe

(Kobus leche – Gray, 1850)

A medium sized antelope, with reddish colour, and characteristic black markings on forelegs. They are grass-grazers and inhabit flood-grass plains in big herds of 15 to 30 animals. Their broader and longer hoofs are adapted to marshlands. These antelope are also known to drink large amounts of water up to 3 times per day. Females have no horns and are smaller in body size than males.

Average shoulder height is 104 cm (41") and an average weight of 110 kg (240 lb).

SCI minimum score: 58"



Half Mount



Combo Pedestal Mount



Full Mount

Bushbuck

(Tragelaphus scriptus – Pallas, 1766)

The Bushbuck, being part of the spiral horned family is a fascinating creature. Its beautiful appearance, feisty nature and adaptability makes it one of the most unique antelope found in Africa. Being a forest-dwelling antelope, the Bushbuck is a very shy and elusive buck.

Average shoulder height is 89 cm(35") and an average weight of 72 kg(160 lb).

SCI minimum score: Cape Bushbuck 31"
Limpopo Bushbuck 33"



Full Mount



Wall Pedestal Mount

Blesbuck

(*Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi* – Pallas, 1767)

Deriving its name from the Dutch term “bles”, meaning blaze, the Blesbuck portrays a distinct white blaze on its forehead. At one point in time, the Blesbuck was almost hunted to its extinction by pioneers and settlers who consumed their meat. Both males and females have horns, although the female horns are slimmer than those of the males.

Average shoulder height is 100 cm (39”) and average weight is 80 kg (176 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 40”



Shoulder Mount



Pedestal Mount



Full Wall-hanging Mount

Impala

(*Aepyceros melampus* – Lichtenstein, 1812)

Locally, the Impala is known as a “Rooibok”. “Rooi” means red and “bok” means buck. The Impala is one of the most common African antelope and are easily recognised by their leaps into the air. An Impala can jump up to 3 m high and, when running, they can jump up to 10 m in distance. Male Impala, known as rams, have ringed horns which resemble the shape of a lyre. Female Impala, known as ewes, do not grow horns.

Average shoulder height is 100 cm (39”) and average weight is 80 kg (176 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 52”



Pedestal Mount



Zulu Shield Mount



Shoulder Mount

Common Duiker

(*Sylvicapra grimmia* – Linnaeus, 1758)

This small antelope, also known as the grey duiker, forms part of the tiny ten, the ten smallest huntable antelope in Africa. The black marking on their nose and a tuft of hair between their horns are very characteristic of the grey duiker. Only males have horns.

Average shoulder height is 63 cm (25") and average weight of 15 kg (33 lb).

SCI minimum score: 11"



Full Mount



Pedestal Mount

Mountain Reedbuck

(*Redunca fulvorufula* – Afzelius, 1815)

A medium sized antelope, found in valleys of mountainous areas. The colour of its body is greyish with a red sheen and a brown neck with characteristic dark/black spots below the ears. Its alert call is a distinct whistle and almost sounds like a human whistle. Only males have horns.

Average shoulder height is 75 cm (30") and an average weight of 30 kg (65 lb).

SCI minimum score: 11"



Vaal Rhebuck

(*Pelea capreolus* – Forster, 1790)

A medium-sized antelope found in open grasslands and mountainous regions. The coat is pale grey with a woolly texture, which provides insulation against colder climates. The Vaal Rhebuck has distinctively long pointed upright ears. Only males have straight, upright horns that taper to a fine point. Its alert call is a high-pitched bark, serving as a warning signal to its group.

Average shoulder height is 81 cm (32"), and the average weight is 25 kg (55 lb).

SCI minimum score: 16"



Oribi

(*Ourebia ourebi* – Zimmermann, 1783)

A small and graceful antelope found in open grasslands or floodplains in well-watered areas. The colour of its coat is a rich golden-brown, with a white underbelly and a white patch on the throat and rump. The tail of the Oribi is black. Males have straight horns, which are ringed at the base, while females are hornless. Its alert call is a snorting whistle, and it is known for its swift and agile movements when evading predators.

Average shoulder height is 58 cm (23"), and the average weight is 19 kg (42 lb).

SCI minimum score: 13"



Klipspringer

(*Oreotragus oreotragus* – Zimmermann, 1783)

This small antelope forms part of the tiny ten, the ten smallest huntable antelope in Africa. Inhabiting mountainous areas, this small antelope is very acrobatic between boulders. When alerted, they have a very distinct whistling snort. These antelope have delicate fur because of hollow and straw-like hair strands. Only males have horns.

Average shoulder height is 53 cm (21") and an average weight 15 kg (33 lb).

SCI minimum score: 10"



Cape Grysback

(*Raphicerus melanotis* – Thunberg, 1811)

A small antelope found in the fynbos and scrublands of South Africa near rivers and also coastal forests. The colour of its coat is dark reddish-brown, speckled with white, giving it a grizzled appearance. It has a slender build with large ears and only males have short, straight horns. Its behavior is highly secretive, and it is primarily nocturnal. When alarmed, it emits a snorting sound before darting into cover.

Average shoulder height is 54 cm (21"), and the average weight is 10 kg (22 lb).

SCI minimum score: 5"



Full Mount

Blue Duiker

(*Cephalophus monticola* – Thunberg, 1789)

A small antelope found in dense forests and thickets. The colour of its coat is a sleek greyish brown with a slight bluish hue, with a lighter underbelly. It has short legs and a characteristic hunched appearance. Both males and females have small, sharp horns, although they are often hidden by a tuft of hair. Its alert call is a piercing alarm whistle, and it is known for its quick, darting movements.

Average shoulder height is 30 cm (12"), and the average weight is 5.5 kg (12 lb).

SCI minimum score: 4 4/16"



Bushpig

Bushpig (*Potamochoerus larvatus* – Cuvier, 1822)

The Bushpig is a robust, secretive and highly adaptable wild pig found across much of southern Africa. Mostly nocturnal and known for its intelligence and toughness, the Bushpig is a challenging and respected quarry among hunters. Its coarse bristly coat varies from reddish-brown to dark grey, often with lighter facial markings, and both sexes carry sharp, curved tusks used effectively for defence. Fiercely territorial when threatened, the Bushpig has a well-earned reputation for aggression and resilience in dense bush and riverine habitats.

Average shoulder height is 65–85 cm (26–33") with an average weight of 70–115 kg (154–254 lb).

SCI minimum score: 12"



Full Mount

Warthog

(*Phacochoerus aethiopicus* – Pallas, 1776)

The Warthog derives its name from the wart-like bumps on its face. Unlike most other members of the pig family, Warthogs have unusually large tusks. Typically, the Warthog runs with its tail held in an upright position, which resembles a tiny flag; this, some say, may be an indicator used by its piglets to follow when running through long grass.

Average shoulder height is 76 cm (30") and average weight is 90 kg (198 lbs).

SCI minimum score: 29"



Full Mount



Common Ostrich

(*Struthio camelus* – Linnaeus, 1758)

The largest living bird, found in open savannas and arid regions of Africa. Its plumage is black with white wing and tail feathers in males, while females and juveniles are covered in greyish-brown feathers. Ostriches are flightless, but their long, powerful legs make them excellent runners, capable of reaching speeds up to 70 km/h (43 mph). They have long necks and large eyes, giving them excellent vision to spot predators from a distance. Males emit deep booming calls during the breeding season.

Average height is 2.1-2.7 m (7-9 ft), and the average weight is 100-150 kg (220-330 lb).

“ I was fortunate to have experienced a strong influence of African culture during my upbringing on a farm. This made me the man and artist that I am today. I will always treasure this opportunity to embrace Africa and its wildlife. As the African proverb goes: “A river that forgets its source, will dry up.”

My career as a taxidermist began in 2004. I was mentored by a German couple, Andreas Mattke and Tanja Bambek – both master taxidermists, and owners of Alldays Taxidermy, a reputable taxidermy in the South African hunting mecca of Alldays, Limpopo. The establishment of my own taxidermy studio was fueled by my love and passion for African wildlife. I consider myself privileged to be able to express myself through the art of taxidermy, to pursue what I love on a daily basis, and to share my knowledge with people who share my passion. ”

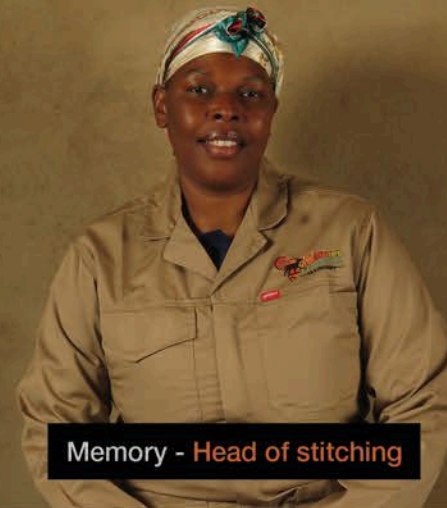
Pieter de Klerk
Master Taxidermist



Julia - Client liaison



Wilson - Floor manager and mounter



Memory - Head of stitching



Advance - Head of skinning and shaving



Relief - Head of tanning



Phillies - Head of receiving and tagging