

# THE SACRED MARRIAGE

*Of Cosmic Forces*  
*- The Dance of the Inner Feminine*  
*and Inner Masculine*



## DESCRIPTION

*4 -Day Intensive or Retreat for sacred art practitioners  
where we dance our way to the very Heart of Creation, a place which also  
exists in our own psyche or World Within!*

**4 – 7 February 2019**

**Venue: 21 Jerningham Road, London SE14 5NQ, UK**

*We are on both National Rail and the East London Line, nearest stations are  
New Cross Gate (3mins) and New Cross (10 mins) - 1 stop from London  
Bridge Station and 2 stops from Canada Water*

**Hours: 10 am - 5 pm (with lunch break)**

*But feel free to arrive from 9.30 every morning and settle in or make art before class!*

**7 - 9 pm (evening work or ceremony but 5 pm finish on closing day)**

**Fee: £595**

**A non-refundable deposit of £125 will secure your place - the remainder becomes due exactly one month before the course rolls.**

HSBC Sort code: 40-02-31 (or 400231)

Account Nr 71228293

Branch BIC is HBUKGB4106G

IBAN number is GB46HBUK40023171228293

Bank BIC is HBUKGB4B

**Please note that for people flying in from abroad it is generally easier to use Paypal instead as both parties seem to pay a handling fee for international bank transfers. (You can find me on Paypal using [imelda.almqvist@gmail.com](mailto:imelda.almqvist@gmail.com))**

**The maximum number of participants will be 12 people.**

*This is a non-residential course where meals and accommodation are not included! There are plenty of B&B options, cafes and shops in the area!*

## **Prerequisites**

**My stand-alone art retreats are for people who have completed my 2-day Introduction to Sacred Art course as well as for people who have done my sacred art practitioner program and wish to continue working with others in sacred space, in a profoundly spirit-led way.**

*Only in exceptional circumstances (say for people flying in from abroad) could I make links available for some on-line introduction sacred art classes I taught to my U.S. group. The person concerned would then need to complete all the tasks set and arrange a (paid) supervision session with me to discuss progress. - However it is preferable by a long stretch to do the introduction course in person, drop deeply into this work and enjoy deep community (and truly being seen on the level of soul) with kindred spirits!*



## THE SACRED MARRIAGE OR HIEROS GAMOS

I urge you to watch the following art video to see if this work resonates with you:

**The Sacred Marriage in The Great Below**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7bo3tYV8Go&t=23s>

*Our soul's craving for wholeness drives the unfoldment of all stories. A profound mystery teaching is found at the heart of a collection of myths from ancient Sumeria, such The Descent of Inanna and the sacred marriage of Ereshkigal and Nergal. The language may be archaic but the message is timeless: the sacred marriage between divine feminine and masculine principles is what animates and revitalizes the cosmos. This phenomenon needs to occur within our own psyche (on the level of soul and archetypes) as much as in the world around*

And here is an even more “way out” video about two Sami Deities:

**Bow Woman and Alder Man**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4a1CSgsJV5k&t=36s>

*This art film by Imelda Almqvist explores shamanism, gender crossing and the cosmic dance of sacred feminine and sacred masculine through the lens of two Sami deities: Bow Woman (or Juoksakkha) and Alder Man (Leibolmai). Shamans are explorers of the psyche and they have*

***always crossed social, spiritual and gender boundaries. With a debt of gratitude to Raven Kaldera's enlightening on-line article:***

<http://www.northernshamanism.org/ergj-the-way-of-the-third.html>

## **Workshop Content**

In this workshop we will essentially become “*psychonauts*” and travel to the very heart of the Creation and the Cosmos, which is also the mysterious seat of creation in our psyche, or Great Within.

**The sacred masculine and sacred feminine exist as cosmic forces within all of us, independent of our gender or sexuality. It is only through arriving at balance, a sacred marriage (or *Hieros Gamos*) deep within ourselves that we can bring our soul and our lives into balance. Not only that, we reach for a wider range of expressions that is our birth right.**

In the 2-day introduction workshop we focused on medieval teachings (about working from a spirit-led as opposed to ego-led place) and we tasted the surface of this powerful process. In this 4-day retreat we will drop way deeper into the mysteries and magic of “*what we know but often do not realise we know and are*”: we forgot, mainstream education (with a focus on science) imposed a different dominant perception, we were told “to grow up and pull out of it” as dreamy teenagers... The *natural born shaman* in us was not nourished or encouraged. However this process of conditioning may have unfolded for you, most people I work with have been “tamed” and lost touch with their Wild Selves. Along the way we lose access to The Wild in ourselves, meaning that there are virgin territories awaiting us. Here we find larger manifestations (cosmic blueprints) of who we really are and what seeks expression through us. Doing the much-needed work of balancing through ceremony and healing encounters with Spirit is ultimately life-changing. We step closer to our own soul and mission in life. We no longer apologise for being our authentic selves.

Our evenings together will be used to perform powerful and deeply personal ceremonies.

Working as a group with an experienced teacher means exploring this in safe ways, within a safe container and strong boundaries (of time, space, confidentiality, being witnessed, covering both the personal and the collective human dimension).

**However , to do this work you need to have a high degree of spiritual maturity coupled with a high degree of emotional containment. It also requires a sincere willingness to engage in group ceremonial work and profound respect for other people's process.**



***Please note that this course is not a psycho therapy group and it does not substitute for shamanic healing work either!!***

***This course is for people who are ready to take the ancient alchemical art of doing deep inner work to a whole new level.***

## **GLOBAL SACRED ART NETWORK**

This is a stand-alone retreat. It does not bring the continuity (or social and financial commitment) of a sacred art practitioner training and the same group meeting six times.

Some people will come and go, taking from it what they need. That is fine!

Other people will form strong bonds and decide to stay in touch with each other and perhaps continue to work together once this retreat is over. I will actively encourage this and provide help with certain practical matters (e.g. create a dedicated closed Facebook group - or even webpage - if people want this).

It has been my own personal vision for years to bring people together under the umbrella of a larger **Global Sacred Art Network**. My long-term dream is that people will connect, share sources, support each other from a place of *abundance consciousness and cooperation* (not competition and scarcity consciousness).

I am publishing my second book in March 2019. The title is: **SACRED ART, A Hollow Bone for Spirit: Where Art Meets Shamanism**. I invited sacred students on two continents (Europe and the U.S.) to write contributions for that book about their own process. Many people did and others chose not to because they prefer to stay anonymous and not see their work in print.

My philosophy is that the role of community in art is often under-played and that many (but not all) people do better when they have the support of kindred spirits.

However, as I am a profoundly solitary person who frequently locks herself in her cave deep in the forest - I also understand that some people will be lone wolves and not open themselves to this. – I actually understand that better than you might think!

*Essentially any sacred art network will become what people themselves choose to make it. I will make my skills, connections and resources available but ultimately this can only grow organically.*

*I am open to other suggestions as well (there may well be ideas I have not even conceived of!) You may write in with questions and/or suggestions (or urgent concerns for me to consider including in the course – but they need to be “on target” in terms of the energy signature of our work!)*

*For now feel free to join the following Facebook groups if you wish:*

**GREEN FIRE – GLOBAL GROUP FOR IMELDA ALMQVIST'S SACRED ART PRACTITIONERS**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/305022683292826/>

**ALUMNI AND STUDENTS OF IMELDA ALMQVIST**

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1220541024739496/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1220541024739496/?ref=br_rs)

**Imelda Almqvist, London, 27 June 2018**

***Our own life is the greatest work of art we will ever make!***

**Imelda Almqvist**

Imelda Almqvist's book *Natural Born Shamans: A Spiritual Toolkit For Life (Using shamanism creatively with young people of all ages)* was published by Moon Books in August 2016. She is based in London, UK and teaches shamanism and sacred art internationally. She is a presenter on Year of Ceremony for Sounds True and has presented on the Shamanism Global Summit with The Shift Network. Her second book: SACRED ART: A Hollow Bone for Spirit - Where Art Meets Shamanism will be published in March 2019. She is currently working on her third book: Medicine of the Imagination.

<http://www.shaman-healer-painter.co.uk/>

(Website)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pB5iiXMSrY>

(Art videos on Youtube Channel)

<https://imeldaalmqvist.wordpress.com/>

(Blog)

<http://moon-books.net/blogs/moonbooks/tag/imelda-almqvist/>

(Author Blog on publisher's website)

# NATURAL BORN SHAMANS

A Spiritual Toolkit for Life



USING SHAMANISM CREATIVELY  
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

Imelda Almqvist

Foreword by Sandra Ingerman