

**Phyllis Green**





**Phyllis Green – Drawing with Light**

**By Marissa Veldman**

A snapshot marks a second in time; an event that spreads both inwards to our private realm of association and outwards, to join the vast world of photographic images.

Phyllis Green's philosophy is that the picture finds the artist. A self-taught photographer, she views her surroundings as a narrative and believes she is granted only the sporadic privilege of capturing pieces of time. Each of her photographs is unique: she uses an old Canon camera and makes a single, full-frame print of every negative which is hand printed on fibre-based paper.

"As I work in publications and have no control over the number of copies of my work, I made a conscious decision to have utter control of my art. Photography is my passion and I find the creation of a one-off photograph extremely satisfying."

The artist's efforts evoke documentary realism but her forceful images are deceptively plain; as seen through her lens, everyday objects and places turn out to be wrapped in secrecy. The element of available illumination plays a

vital role in her art—using only natural light, she often has no more than a few minutes in which to grasp the moment and create an image of an object or idea that fascinates her.

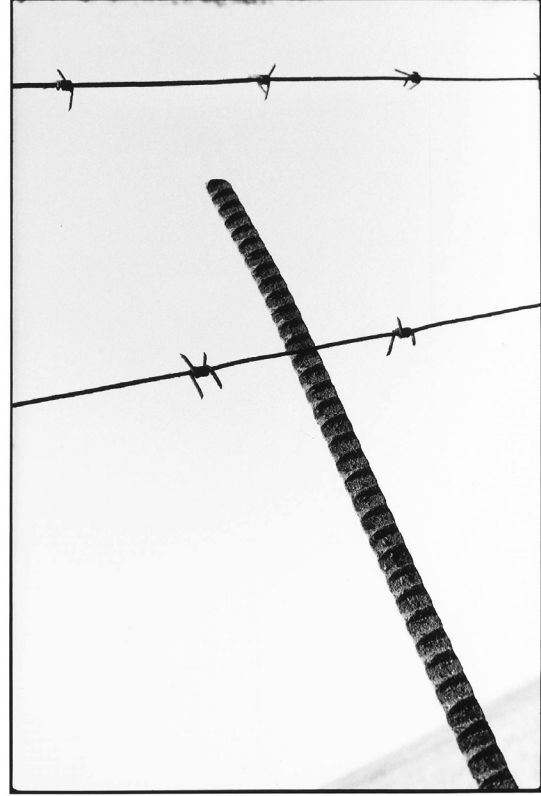
She has an abiding connection with our continent. Her depictions of the environment explore the interconnection between civilization and the natural world, thereby drawing us into the perpetual dialogue between disintegration and continuation.

She considers her camera work as a means of preserving personal memories as well as being a documentary analysis of our culture and surroundings. Working within the limits of black-and-white photography, she deftly illustrates our individual and collective responses to living here and now.

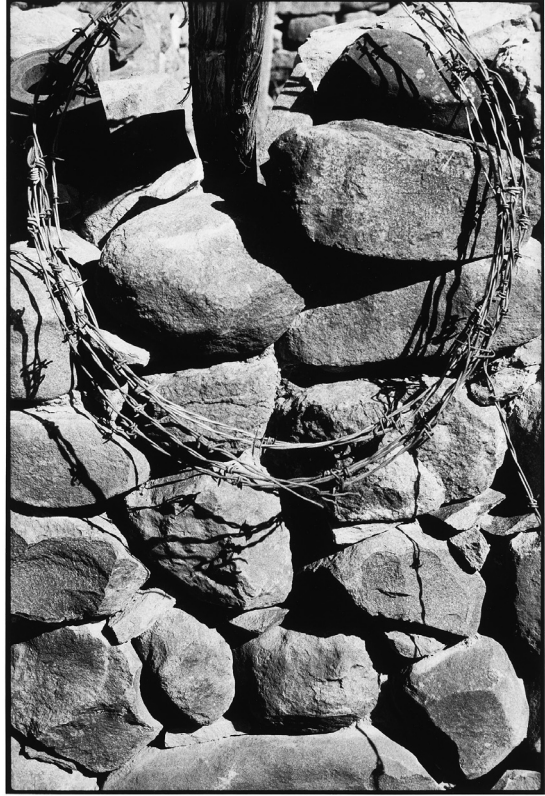
Green's work demonstrates an inner vision based on empathy and an intuitive, hands-on approach: it reveals a vulnerability that stands in direct opposition to consumer-driven images that often overwhelm viewers with dramatic representations in technicolour.



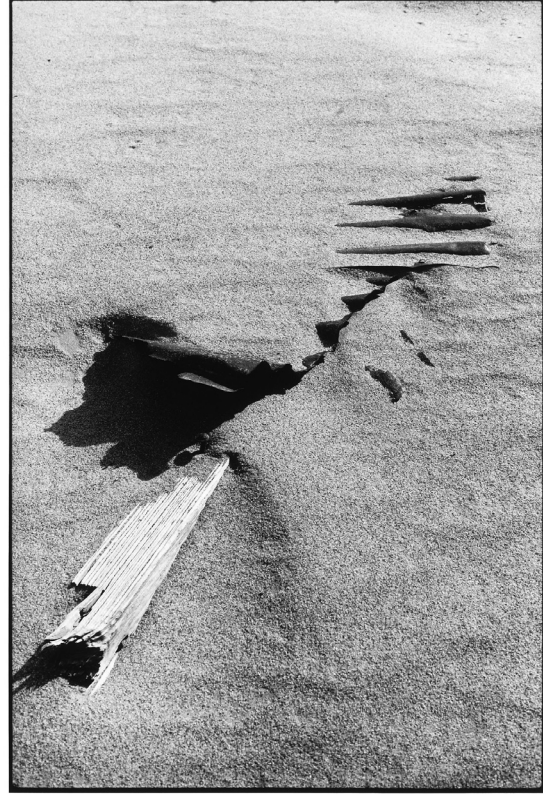












**Professional Record:**

1989 – 1996: Press photographer, Beeld newspaper (covering hard news, politics, features and sport)  
1996 – present: Photographer, Sarie magazine (specialising in portraits and general photography; products, décor and stock photographs).

**Awards:**

Photographer of the Year (Pretoria Press Club, 1992)  
Pretoria Photographer of the Year (Beeld, 1993 and 1995)  
Picture of the Year (Beeld, 1995)  
Mondi Nominee for Portrait Photography (Sarie, 2003)  
Portrait Photographer of the Year (Images 24, 2008)

**Exhibitions:**

Beeld Photographic Exhibition (Pretoria Show, 1993)  
Two man Exhibition with Cobus Veldtman (Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, 1994)  
Solo Exhibition (Art House on Brooklyn, 2001)  
Contributor: "Private Collections" (Upstairs @ Bamboo, 2004)  
Contributor: "Twice International Furniture Launch" (2004)  
Permanent Portrait Installation (Harrie's Pancakes, Graskop, from 2005)  
Permanent Installation, Room 22 – in collaboration with Eric Duplan and Schalk van Niekerk (The Graskop Hotel, from 2006)  
Contributor: "Group Exhibition" (Karoo Art House, 2007)

**Publications:**

Roberts, M. & Green, P. 2000. Cooking with Herbs and Flowers. Cape Town: Spearhead Press.  
Roberts, M. & Green, P. 2000. Medicinal and Edible Flowers. Cape Town: Spearhead Press.  
Roberts, M. & Green, P. 2004. The Lavender Book. Pretoria: Briza.

**Credits:**

Scanning of photographs: THE LAB  
Printing of photographs: Dennis da Silva, Silvertone International

**Image:** (page 2 & 3, detail) UNTITLED, 2008

**Medium:** Black and white, handprinted on fibre base paper

**Dimensions:** 244 mm x 362 mm

**Images:** (pages 4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16 & 17) UNTITLED, 2008

**Medium:** Black and white, handprinted on fibre base paper

**Dimensions:** 362 mm x 244 mm

**Map - South Africa**

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**Concept:** Harrie Siertsema

**Co-ordination:** Abrie Fourie

**Text:** Marissa Veldman

⊕ - Graskop

⊕ - Dullstroom

⊕ - Pretoria - Tshwane

⊕ - Irene - Tshwane

⊕ - Richmond

⊕ - Cape Town