

THE LAND PROJECT

Inside Perspective

I am interested in people's connection to the land in South Africa, and their unwavering commitment to it. I grew up on a farm in South Africa in a place called Dundee. I was raised there, among the animals and the people who also lived there. At the beginning of 2021, I set out to do a photographic project, titled Young Farmers which is based on individuals who are helping to build a better future for South Africa. This project won the 2021 Sony World Photography Awards Student Competition and later grew into a larger photographic investigation of the land and our connections through it and with it. In a sense, my images are observations of people connected to the land, the conditions in which they live and the land itself. It is important to state that my images are from the viewpoint of a young gaze that wants this country to improve, grow and connect. My relationship with the subjects in The Land Project is an integral part of the series. I photograph from an insider perspective with a deep connection to every photograph. I see myself, a young South African who grew up on a farm, now sharing my perspective by documenting others who rely on and live off the land. It is also important to note that The Land Project does not cover the full complexity of the land and our relationship with and through it. I believe that images have the power to influence, and this project is my attempt to contribute to creating and preserving important connections and relationships that exist through the land.