

THE LAND PROJECT

Common Ground

Land is incredibly political in South Africa. The ownership land, who works the land, who profits from it, its value to the economy. Yet, this is not the focus of The Land Project project this year. I have much wisdom to gain before commenting on political discourse. For now, I wish to understand what it is that transcends our differences.

I grew up close to the land where my experience was that our connections were often stronger than our differences. My project is a small weight on the other side of the pendulum. Trying to help balance the current visual and political narrative.

I am curious about people's connection to the land in South Africa, and their unwavering commitment to it. People who live close to the land exhibit an unbelievable level of perseverance and resilience. This connection to the land fascinates me and I am curious about how it transcends socio-economic, racial, cultural, political, and other differences.

I grew up in KZN and knew this story could be captured there. But I made sure to stop a few times between Stellenbosch and home. My travels have been rewarded with many amazing experiences, and encounters with people who exceeded my every expectation of those who live close to the land. We all share something, something almost intangible. An undeniable connection and dedication to work and appreciate the land.