

# Agter die Kamera • Behind the Camera



PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
*Roberto*



I cut my teeth doing under water photography whilst living in Tanzania, albeit probably one of the most difficult genres of photography known to mankind. It is also undeniably the most rewarding as well when you get to master it...with an emphasis placed on when. What makes it rather tricky, is the light or rather the lack thereof under water. The use of artificial lighting such as strobes is therefore essential and the way you use it, even more so. This experience has taught me a very valuable fundamental in photography; it's all about manipulating light! In effect, we're simply lighting guru's capturing reflections of light.

During our stay in Tanzania, we encountered a huge problem caused by ruthless fishermen who used dynamite as a means to catch fish. Having survived several explosions whilst scuba diving, my wife (Dawn) and I returned to South Africa. Upon our first visit to Dog Stone Bay (Hondekli Bay), we instantly fell in love with the place. The peace, tranquillity and the people on the West Coast just have a way of creeping into ones' heart. In 2006, we developed "Skulpieskraal" tented lodge and "Die Rooi Spinnekop Restaurant", deriving its' name from what locals call crayfish on the West Coast.

Namaqualand is internationally renown for its' wild flowers. Amusingly, I always thought that flower viewing was for old tannies on a koek en tee outing...how very wrong I was. The plethora of wild flowers draping the landscape will turn any tog into a camera-toting-trigger-happy-maniac! Sadly, that was when I noticed how many peeps who own really great gear, don't know how to use it. Being self taught and knowing the frustration of trying to decipher all the theory from manuals and books all too well, I started providing practical, one-on-one photography courses, from beginners through to advanced level. I have an absolute passion for teaching and seeing how people evolve, is truly rewarding for me.

As in any small dorpie, Hondekli Bay also has its' collection of artistic eccentrics, perhaps that's why I feel so at home here. Other than the flowers, the West Coast has an abundance of photographic material. Here you can capture really amazing sunsets over the ocean, rugged seascapes, ship wrecks, abundant fauna and flora and the people who coexist with their lives edged out in their faces.

I often get asked what genre of photography I enjoy? Everything, I thrive on challenges, hence my interests are wide and varied, from landscape, macro, portraiture, stills, food, fine art, through to boudoir photography. Besides doing commission work, I also sell a lot of my work which is on display in Die Rooi Spinnekop Restaurant in Hondekli Bay.



