



Julie
AARTS

PHOTOGRAPHER & EDUCATOR

I'm an experienced photographer and art director working across freelance practice, creative direction, and academia.

My work is grounded in concept-driven image-making and visual storytelling. It spans commercial, film, and fine-art contexts, supporting creative research throughout. I create concept treatments and shoot material for published and exhibited works, emphasising visual organisation, detail, and collaboration.

Alongside my professional practice, I serve as a BVA Photography Contract Lecturer at Nelson Mandela University. In this role, I support undergraduate teaching by managing classroom environments and facilitating student learning through multimedia and interactive approaches, bridging academic education and creative practices.

Location

Gqeberha, South Africa

LinkedIn

[/in/julie-aarts](#)

Instagram

[@makesaarts](#)

Email

julieaartsphotography@gmail.com

EDUCATION

2023

BVA: Visual Arts

Nelson Mandela University

Thesis Statement:

Exploring the phases of emigration, through the creation of photographic Narrative Tableaux

2018

BTech: Photography

Cape Peninsula University

2014 - 2016

Diploma Photography

Nelson Mandela University

Recipient of Alexander Macun Photography Award, 2015

SKILLS

Photography & Art Direction

- Advanced camera skills
- Studio management & photography
- Visual storytelling
- Concept development
- Professional practice
- Graphic design (advertising)

Software

Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign
Premier Pro, Capture One

Academic

- Teaching strategies
- Curriculum creation
- Research guidance
- Administrative management
- Departmental project coordination
- Exhibition planning & curation

HIGHLIGHTS

Exhibitor

Sasol New Signatures
Together, Ava Gallery

Art Director

Thanks, Mr Bell - Durban FilmMart
The Story of a Thorn - NFFV-funded

CERTIFICATIONS

Digital Content & Copywriting

Red & Yellow

The Complete Graphic Design Theory for Beginners Course

Lindsay Marsh

Social Media Online Training

NTA & Academy for Business Excellence

EXPERIENCE

2021-Present

BVA Lecturing Assistant

Nelson Mandela University

Managed an effective classroom, mentored new lecturing assistants and enhanced student learning through multimedia and interactive teaching methods.

2021 - Present

Lead Photographer

VanBode Wedding

Lead photographer on high-end weddings.

2016 - Present

Freelance

Makes Aarts - Photo & Art Director

Freelance photographer and assistant specialising in commercial, fashion, and event photography. Worked with a range of local and international clients.

2023 - Present

Art Director

Developing Agency - Art Director

Led visual direction and concept development for short film projects. Overseeing visual storytelling, aesthetic cohesion, and creative execution.

2019

Production Coordinator

Hero Creative Management

Managed production, logistics and artist coordination for print and digital campaigns, supporting photographers and creative directors from pre-production to final delivery.

REFERENCES

Prof. Pieter Binsbergen

Director of School: Music, Art and Design
Nelson Mandela University

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Amy Bode

Founder

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Mzimasi Ndzombane

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Developing Agency

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