



Sharing a vision (or two or three)



As many South African photographers will attest, getting an exhibition of your work together is one thing while actually finding a venue willing to display the work to the public is another

matter entirely. Alexandra Murphy, of Cape Town, is a lady who has succeeded more than most in sharing her vision with the public.

Let there be no doubt in your mind about Alexandra Murphy. She is a lady possessed of a unique photographic vision, determination and a gentle sense of purpose which all make themselves known within a few minutes of meeting.

With touches of her British heritage peeping through her speech every now and then, Alexandra will happily talk about photography and her ideas. This is, of course, to be expected as this bright 29 year old teaches at the Ruth Prowse college of art in Woodstock, and one is expected to be able to talk when teaching students.

Conveying ideas in an understandable manner is another attribute which is vital if you are a teacher. That it comes in handy when Alexandra displays her photographs to the public is, perhaps, a happy bonus for she is confident enough in her own work for it to be left alone to stand on its own merits.

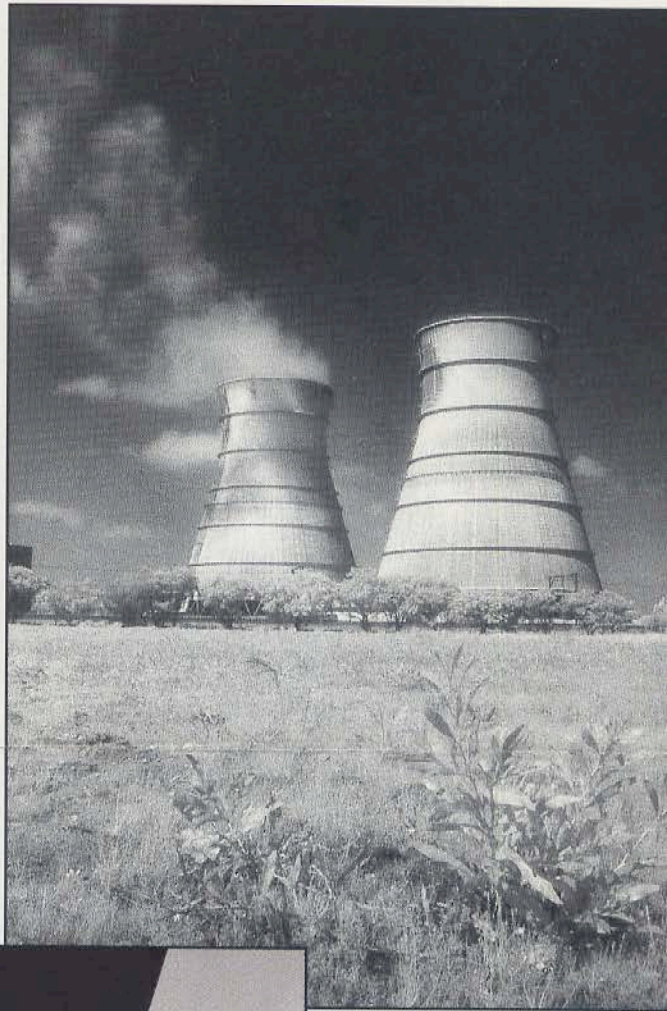
Born in Crawley, Sussex in the UK, Alexandra was schooled in South Africa as her parents emigrated when she was 12. Like most artists, she suffered the creative deprivations associated with

being within a schooling system which constantly attempted to force creative, enquiring and rounded minds into narrow, confining square compartments.

Nothing daunted, she took up photography and attended Rhodes University after matriculating and obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She then spent two years in Europe before returning to complete her Masters at Rhodes.

Alexandra does freelance work for a number of magazines in-between attempting to help her students develop their individual creative vision.

Her latest exhibition, at the Castle in Cape Town, follows on from more than a dozen previous displays of her work, both in South Africa and abroad. The theme is the urban landscape and Alexandra utilises various methods to



express her vision, ranging from the application of infra-red films to creative printing techniques.

Her excitement at seeing a new image, and the fun of turning that vision into

the photograph she wishes to obtain, is palpable as she discusses her prints. The motivation behind each is powerful and the execution commendable.

More's the pity then, that Capetonians have yet to discover the intrinsic value of a genuine photographic print - Alexandra's exhibit deserved better sales success and viewer support than it enjoyed. Perhaps its time for her

work to travel northwards to Gauteng, if for no other reason than most of her exhibits have been in the southern reaches of our land and her photographs deserve a wider audience than that.