INCE the start of the Western Cape’s drought, authorities have taken drastic measures to tackle the crisis with calls to cut back on domestic use. Most Capetonians appear to be deeply concerned.

A year ago, photographer SaySayLove had no idea the city would be facing a drought. Unbeknown to him, and captured by the vast natural beauty of the mother city, and his experiences with water.

This journey of visual reflection has cumulated into a body of work titled, “The Gift of Water”. The photographic exhibition is inspired by the life-force that is water.

SaySayLove’s images reshapes our understanding of this gift, and his colourful expressions reflect his understanding of preserving this life-binding agent that fills our rivers and dams.

“I am very excited to share my emotions that I had when I took those pictures. For me, Cape Town is paradise. I am located close to the nature reserve. I am very addicted to nature.”

“I started taking the pictures a year ago especially because water is my element and I am just attached to it. I can not tell you why, maybe it comes from the universe. I feel strongly connected to water.”

“I wanted to do something more meaningful, a contribution to society and to give back and that is why I thought let’s do an exhibition of what I love to do. I love to take photography which is more or less abstract,” he said.

SaySay chose to donate all the proceeds to Lalela, an NGO-founded in 2006.

Lalela provides educational arts for at-risk youth to spark creative thinking and awaken the entrepreneurial spirit. Their role in arts education is to help blaze the trail in whole brain thinking with a proven path to innovation and new job creation.

“It’s not about making money, it’s just about being careful with resources especially with water, to have an awareness and to give back to the community.”

“Education is a door opener and we need to invest in our kids and enable them to get a good education as it was done to me and to many people. Education leads to a better society, it gives the kids a bucket full of opportunities to better their life.”

The exhibition opened at Gallery One11, Cape Town, South Africa, and will run until December 4.