

**Ana Pereira de Vlieg**

**Artist Statement pertaining to the body of work pertaining to the exhibition held  
at the Kwazulu Natal Society of Arts  
April 2010**

A heightened awareness of one's physical shadows and reflections is a current focus of my investigation. The Shadow alerts, imitates, reveals and conceals its maker. I choose to use it as a kind of spotlight onto a surface symbolic in its meaning. It echoes and glistens with so much potential and recalls for me Jung's "gold in the psyche", hidden gifts and talents.

The Shadow, in my figurative work, connects the field and the figure and reveals the only clue to the viewer as to the whereabouts of the figure. The rest of the environment is bleached out as I eradicate the superfluous and concentrate my attention on what is meaningful to me.

I then approach my subject matter with a highly focused look and see what is normally glossed over, underfoot or lies on the surface of the skin.

My oil on medium size canvases pick up the sensual textures and warm tones of skin which should pulsate and reverberate the beat of life. I am able to dramatize my lighting because of shadows. The coastal light I depict celebrates for me life in Africa. As the shadow can only exist in light, it is only the light that can be the creative force.