A deep sensitivity towards the phenomenon of light and its various physical characteristics is but one of the many delights of Giovanni Ozzola’s Adrift exhibition at SMAC Gallery.

The current exhibition follows a showing at the District Six Museum Homecoming Centre in Cape Town and can be viewed until 28 May.

Ozzola, a multidisciplinary artist working primarily in photography, video and sculptural installation, says the most interesting thing to him is to share his world, composed of a rational side and an emotional one.

“I see each person as an individual entity, operating on its own,” he says. “We only share a reality, a time and a place. I like to see what you see, I like to feel what you feel. Each one of us defines what the world is by sharing our experiences.”

“Making art, for me, is like adding pages to a shared and vast encyclopaedia. How it looks and how I feel in this unrepeatable moment. Each artwork comes from a moment of clarity or awareness, I’m here, I’m connected with my senses, this moment with all it’s verity possible is now and no more.”

Working in different disciplines with various kinds of media is a natural process for Ozzola.

“I attempt to achieve something bigger or deeper than mere technical definitions of medium, I try not to be ‘branded’ or limited to being described as a ‘photographer’ or ‘sculptor’.”

He does, however, have a photography background, which influences how he sees his subjects.

“Spending time in front of photographs, one starts to think about how these scenes would be in a three-dimensional space, and further, when one experiences audiences viewing the artworks, how the concept of time could be included within the artwork, in both its physical existence and in the viewer’s experience of the artwork.”

“This directed my thinking particularly in the medium of video. My exhibitions are living compositions in themselves. Each work has its own story and reason to be. It’s like when you choose words to build a sentence. Everything has a meaning in an individual and a shared context.”

Ozzola’s fascination with the phenomenon of light comes from his ability to be both visible and hidden.

“For me, light defines our surroundings, but at the same time it can also hide within its own brightness, shapes, outlines and borders. I strive to share and communicate the poetics of light, both conceptually and literally.”

Astrid Gebhardt, special projects manager at the District Six Museum, says Adrift was well received by District Six museum patrons.

“Both individuals working at the museum and visitors were taken with the scale of Ozzola’s photographic prints and his attention to detail,” she said. “Appreciation was expressed particularly for the artist’s interest and willingness to learn and engage...”