

## **PAUL ROOS GYMNASIUM & THE RUPERT MUSEUM**

### **OPEN SPACES WHERE STELLENBOSCH LEARNERS CAN CONNECT THROUGH ART**

On Saturday, 18 September Stellenbosch learners with a talent for and interest in art came together to experience a guided museum tour of the Rupert Museum. The aim of this tour was to expose learners to a high-class art museum, captivating artworks by exciting local artists and to discuss the top 41-100 portraits by the 'Portrait 100 Award' winners which are currently exhibited at the Rupert Museum. This tour was attended by 34 learners from Paul Roos Gymnasium, Hoërskool Stellenbosch, Lückhoff High School, Hoër Meisieskool Bloemhof, Rhenish Girls' High and the Calling Academy. All these learners come from a diverse array of communities within Stellenbosch, while others are in boarding school and come from surrounding rural towns.

Thirty of these learners will be participating in an outreach programme that coincides with the exciting and much anticipated "See and Be Seen" Art Exhibition and Auction, proudly brought to you by Investec, which opens at Paul Roos Gymnasium's indoor cricket centre on 19 October.. The exhibition is aimed at raising funds for the "Sponsor a Paul Rouser" initiative – ensuring the continued top-class education of Paul Roos learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. An incredible and diverse selection of up-and-coming artists, celebrities who make art, professional and acclaimed visual artists are contributing to this event. The thirty learners (Grade 9-11) participating in the outreach programme will be producing artworks of their own, which will form a part of the exhibition. In addition to these thirty works twenty Paul Roos Grade 8 learners will be contributing artworks towards the exhibition as well.

The "See and Be Seen" Outreach Programme is taking place in association with the Rupert Museum and art facilitator and educator Lara Nieuwenhuis. The guided museum tour was an introduction to the venue where they will be spending two afternoons on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 September from 15:00 to 18:30. The museum tour and gathering also served as an introduction to each other. Each individual learner will be paired with a learner from another school and/or community. They will get to know each other through art exercises and activities as facilitated by Lara Nieuwenhuis. By the end of both sessions, each learner will have produced a portrait of a fellow learner from the wider community whom they did not know before and got to know through the process of creating art. These portraits will be a special addition to the art exhibition and should generate interesting conversation.

Paul Roos Old Boy and artist Portchie has generously donated prize money towards the outreach programme. Paul Roos learners will be encouraged to view the artworks created during the "See and Be Seen" outreach programme and vote for their favourite three pieces. The three most appreciated works of art, as voted for by the learners, will win cash prizes between R500 and R1000 each. In the spirit of art appreciation, the Paul Roos learner who had the eye to identify the most popular artwork, will also receive a cash prize. It is important for Paul Roos and Portchie that learners not only engage in art by making it, but also by being

open to it and being able to appreciate it. This project is aimed at creating spaces for connection in a time where many learners have been deprived of activities and events that connect them with others, contributing towards their mental and emotional well-being and their personal growth. It is with this intention that this interactive art programme takes place during Heritage Month, as Heritage Day and month is not only aimed at honouring our heritage, but also our everyday life and the embracing and acceptance of diversity within it.

There was great excitement during the day, and it was evident that the learners enjoyed the tour. Only four of the 34 learners attending the tour had ever visited the Rupert Museum before. That marked the day as a special occasion, as Paul Roos Gymnasium could introduce learners to a museum that has opened its doors (free of charge) to all community members, and in this way made art accessible to all. The learners are excited to return to this space and not only be viewers of art, but artists themselves. Even more so, they are excited to be exhibiting their work alongside acclaimed and professional artists and enjoying a new experience and exposure opportunity in the exciting and liberating world of art.

To attend and/or cover any one of the workshops or to arrange interview(s), please contact Luna Paige at [media@paulroos.co.za](mailto:media@paulroos.co.za) or WhatsApp 082 859 2420 to set up a call. Feel free to make use of the photographs taken on 18 September during the guided museum tour at the Rupert Museum. The photos can be accessed by clicking on the link below. [Click here to view photos](#)

**Official times of the workshops:**

Tuesday 28 September: 15:00 – 18:30, Rupert Museum

Wednesday 29 September: 15:00-18:30, Rupert Museum