



FEARLESS THINKER



The Fearless Thinker is the result of an inspired partnership between RMB and St Stithians College.

The Fearless Thinker was officially unveiled on Founders' Day, 1 August 2020 by Celeste Gilardi, the Rector of St Stithians College.

Inspired by the iconic Fearless Girl statue by Kristen Visbal, which took its place on Wall Street in 2017, RMB envisioned a life-sized and Afro-centric version of the artwork that would speak to the values of collaboration, courage and strength. Prince Albert-based artist Marieke Prinsloo-Rowe's concept depicting a quintessentially African Fearless Thinker walking collaboratively alongside a contemporary concrete male lion captured this vision. The work is an inspiring, functional (the lion doubles up as a bench) and engaging artwork to be enjoyed by all.

The installation at the entrance to St Stithians Girls' College has additional symbolism, as the lion and the girl face west watching over the Bell Tower which is both a memorial to former Girls' College students, Peta Franklin, Kirsty Griffiths, Sarah Houston and Emma Yaldwyn, and is also known as the Friendship Bell; under the Headship of Ivanka Aquisto, the ethos of placing great value on friendship, interpersonal relationships and peer support was symbolized by the rites of passage and ceremonies around the Friendship Bell. Beyond the Bell Tower is the statue of the Lioness and her cub thus connecting the lion and the Fearless Thinker to the pride.



The poem Ruth Everson wrote for the unveiling of the Lioness and Cub beautifully captures the combined significance and synchronicity of the three artworks at the entrance to the Girls' College.

Unafraid: A Seriti poem

Somewhere, at ease in yellow grass,
Where thorn trees scratch
White wisps against the blue,
A tail twitches -
A tufted ear turns to listen -
Eyes, great golden suns,
Will soon swallow a silver moon.
Her cubs, close-kept in the pride,
Must learn the length of her stride,
They will run
To the thud
Of her firefierce heart.
Chasing shadow and sun, side-by-side.
And this she will give them,
As their shadow grows long:
In the soft of your paw,
Is the curve of a claw,
A courage too strong to hide.
You have the heart to run on your own,
But together we rise beneath Africa's skies
Unafraid of our roaring song!



Carel Vosloo, RMB Executive Director states that "Our Africa's Fearless Thinker, alongside the lion, serves as a constant reminder to staff and visitors to have courage, stay curious and relentlessly question the status quo. Coupled with a collaborative mindset, fearless thinking can unlock the collective wisdom to support our community to find opportunity in adversity.

The Fearless Thinker provides a space for thinking, creative dialogue and contemplation on the campus. The Fearless Thinker will serve as a visual reminder of an environment where One and All are encouraged to fearlessly reach their potential.

To watch the video of the official unveiling of the Fearless Thinker that took place on Founders' Day, 1 August 2020, [click here: https://youtu.be/rUco4Ro62Sc](https://youtu.be/rUco4Ro62Sc)

Source:

<https://arttimes.co.za/africas-fearless-thinker-takes-pride-of-place-in-cape-town/>

Our thanks go to St Stithians College Archivist, Dr Mary Reynolds for researching and collating this information.

Even though I walk
through the valley of the
shadow of darkness,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;

