

HISTORY OF THE RUTH PROWSE SCHOOL OF ART NPC



The late Ruth Prowse pictured in the cottage

The School takes its name from and is dedicated to the late Ruth Prowse.

(1883 - 1967)	Miss Prowse was an artist of considerable note and a staunch protagonist for the preservation of our historic buildings and curator of the Michaelis Collection in Cape Town.
1967	Ruth Prowse bequeathed her property, "The Retreat", for the establishment of an art and cultural centre.
1970	Her trustees formally approved the founding of the Ruth Prowse Art Centre by the late Erik Laubscher, the first principal, which was the only non-discriminatory art centre in South Africa.
1980	The Roodebloem Estate was declared a National Monument.
1994/5	New extensions were added to the complex.
1996	The School celebrated 25 years. First Outreach Community Skills Programme was established for learners from historically disadvantaged communities.
1996	Upon retirement of Mr. Laubscher, Ms. Edwine Simon became the first women Director.
1996-2004	The School received sponsorship, private and corporate, donations, bursaries, and bequests.
1996-2004	The School received bursaries for disadvantaged students.
1996-2000	Special Outreach Community Skills Programmes funded by the National Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology and the Arts and Culture Services of the City of Cape Town.
2001	The School celebrated 30 years and embarked on the restoration project for the preservation of its historical buildings.
2002	The second woman director, Ms Eunice Geustyn, appointed for the Ruth Prowse School of Art NPC.

- 2001 Major Fundraising Exhibition with 600 artworks donated by 300 of South Africa's leading professional artists with the production of a full-colour catalogue. The exhibition was held at the National Library of South Africa.
- 2002 Restoration of the Stoep and Thatch Cottage completed.
- 2002 Mr. Erik Laubscher appointed an honorary life member to the Board of Trustees.
- 2003 Restoration of the front balcony, façade and gables of the Manor House started with the generous support from Brendalyn and the late Ernest Stempel under the guidance of renowned architect, John Rennie.
- 2004 to 2009 Extensive restoration of the Roodebloem building externally and internally is completed.
- 2011 The School acquires the Apostolic Church attached to the cottage of the School to create new Stempel Studio and Laubscher Gallery.
- 2012 The Ruth Prowse School of art NPC draws up plans for a new Annex- a bespoke Printmaking Laboratory and state of the Art Photography Studio.