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21 Icons celebrates SA stalwarts

TSHIMOLOGO LEEUW

ACCLAIMED journalist and respected activist Zubeida Jaffer officially launched the 21 Icons exhibition at the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery at the University of the Free State on Wednesday.

The exhibition is a celebration of South Africans who have shaped the world around them for the better.

Inspired by the life of Nelson Mandela, it tells the stories of people who have continued his legacy.

"I think the best way to describe the exhibition is to say it represents a spirit of indomitability, a kind of strength that simply cannot be overcome by circumstance or anything else. These portraits show people who stayed true to their cause," Jaffer said.

A unique concept, the project combines fine-art portraits, short films, behind the scenes photography, written narrative and a feature length documentary.

Jaffer featured in the second series of the project and like the other icons, her feature film premiered on national



INSPIRED: Zubeida Jaffer launched the 21 Icons exhibition. MOURE FLOOR

television.

"Beyond the exhibition, I hope we all come back to the exhibition and take in it's majesty and the energy given by each portrait. Let that inspire you and give you renewed energy so you could go back and conquer your world."

At the end of the project each of the

portraits will be auctioned and proceeds will be donated to the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital. To date, the sale of the Nelson Mandela portrait alone has raised R2m.

The exhibition will be at the gallery until September 26.

provinces@thenewage.co.za