

The David Roche Foundation House Museum



Georgian period, Britain, *The Muses* (Goddesses of literature, science and the arts), 1780–1820, silk on painted linen. On loan from a private collection.

In: Embroidery: Oppression to Expression.

TDRF: Club Fermoy #19

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to our July edition of Club Fermoy where you can find out about our exhibitions and events and much more. Throughout the month Embroidery: Oppression to Expression will be taking centre stage in our gallery as we exhibit rare and early pieces alongside the work of contemporary artists who are using the medium of embroidery to examine the

complex world in which we live. Later in the month, textile conservator Kristin Phillips will join us for a talk on caring for your embroideries, while on our website you will find all our upcoming events, including a talk and workshop by South Australian artists, Sera Waters.

Bastille Day is Wednesday 14 July and marks the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille in 1789, a major event of the French Revolution. Celebrated as a national holiday in France, for those in Australia who love the art of revolutionary France, as well as the excess of what came before, a tour of Fermoy House will not disappoint with pieces from the reigns of Louis XV, XVI and Napoléon. While you can't travel to France, you can still explore its heritage and culture right here in Adelaide!

The recent acquisition of a Queen Anne period quilling (paper-rolling) picture of her coat of arms 1702-07 similarly highlights the earlier shakiness of the English crown as Anne's father was deposed in the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. In terms of the collection, however, it is a wonderful addition highlighting an unusual technique and popular past-time amongst genteel ladies of the Stuart period. One can only imagine one such woman seeking favour with Queen Anne by making this elaborate and beautiful picture.

Thank you to those who joined our new Membership program at its launch and further details can be found in this newsletter for those who would like to sign-up. Lastly, don't miss out on your opportunity to win free tickets to Pompeii at Palace Nova cinemas.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

EXHIBITION

Embroidery: Oppression to Expression



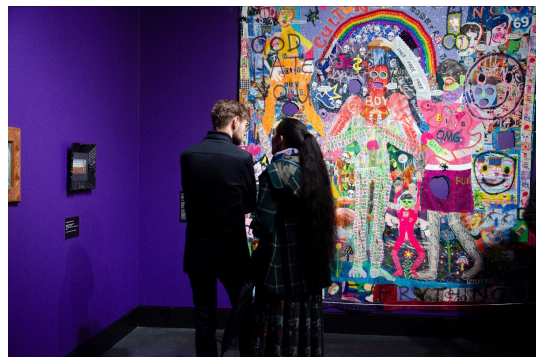
Embroidery: Oppression to Expression is now open!

On the evening of 17 June, in spite of wet and windy weather, over 100 excited embroidery lovers made their way to TDRF to enjoy their first look at Embroidery: Oppression to Expression. In addition to the marvellous works on display, visitors were treated to beautiful music from renowned local cellist, Hamish Netting, and an insightful and amusing talk by Jo Vandeppeer, who spoke on the St Dominic's Priory Cope and the Banner of the Guild of Perseverance.

Don't miss your chance to see this fantastic exhibition of over 100 embroidered works on loan from public institutions, private collectors and contemporary artists across South Australia as well as David Roche's own collection.

The exhibition follows the history of embroidery from 1600 to the modern day, across seven themes: the Arts & Crafts movement, Religious embroidery, English Regency, Animals, Samplers, Fashion and Contemporary. It traces its development from a domestic craft used to prepare young women for a life of household duties and a niche interest of elite ladies, to a powerful contemporary artistic expression of social and political values.

See poignant samplers by girls as young as 10, beautiful 19th century religious pictorial copes made right here in Adelaide, and exquisite shimmering couture by Adelaide atelier, Paolo Sebastian, amongst other amazing examples. With many pieces that have never been on public display before, this is an exhibition not to be missed!



Details: Embroidery: Oppression to Expression

Only at The David Roche Foundation House Museum

Until 25 September 2021

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Exhibition ticket Adult \$12. Concession \$10. Children under 12 free.

No booking required. Please note we operate a COVIDSafe Plan.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



The Roche family in Rome, c.1952

Throughout his life, David Roche was a regular traveller, who visited many different locations across the world. One major trip occurred in 1952. After attending two going away parties as guest of honour in early December 1951, David left shortly after,

accompanying his parents, brother John and sisters, Jennifer and Josephine, on an extensive world tour. This tour was reported in the Adelaide papers of the time.

According to 6 July edition of The Truth:

"After making headquarters for nearly three months at the Ritz the Aga Khan's favourite haunt, the John Roches [David's father] sailed for South America. Before reaching home in November, they will also visit South Africa and Singapore.

The six Roches-parents, Jennifer, Josephine, David and John-have been travelling abroad on a scale usually reserved for Aga Khans or fairy tales. A hired Rolls-Royce has taken them all over England and Scotland and en famille to Ascot (at seven guineas a head for entrance only).

David Roche has remained in London and will be at the Duke of Sutherland's Highlands estate in September. All six Roches stayed recently with the Duke and Duchess at their Surrey estate."

However, according to the Advertiser of 22 November 1952, while the rest of the family visited South America, David actually travelled to the United States to pursue his canine interests. In addition, upon his return to Australia, David provided the Advertiser with an interesting rundown of his favourite locations:

"Highlights of his travels were the modern architecture of Madrid, a visit to caves outside Granada to see Spanish gipsies dance, wonderful skiing at St. Moritz, and the fabulous hospitality of American hosts who sent a plane to bring a guest from New York to Boston to save a train journey".



Britain, Moroccan boy with setters, c.1880, Britain, petit point, wool on canvas back cloth.
TDRF 1580

CANINE TIDBITS

Did you know...

Currently on display in Embroidery: Oppression to Expression are twenty-three embroideries from the David Roche Collection. David Roche had been interested in embroideries since a young age, and in his adult years, he assembled a significant collection of embroidered works, including pieces from his mother and friends across the world.

David's embroidery collection serves as a microcosm of his collection at large, being made up primarily of English Regency, neoclassicism, floral and animal examples. However, it will come as no surprise that the largest number of embroideries in the collection are of dogs.

Amongst these are a number of embroideries of sporting dogs, including an impressive late Victorian petit point example, Moroccan boy with setters, currently on display in Embroidery.

This work shows a young African boy sitting amongst three large setters against sprawling grounds that include a neoclassical temple in the distance. As with most canvas embroideries, it is likely based on an earlier painting or print. A number of aspects of the composition suggest that it was commissioned by a rich landowner to show off his wealth: the size of the grounds and the neoclassical temple, but also the boy himself. In British art of the 17th-19th centuries, the inclusion of an African boy in this setting was a status symbol, and an indicator of exceptional wealth. However, undoubtedly for David Roche, it was the three powerful setters around the boy that spurred him to acquire the piece.

The embroidery collection very much echoes David's painting collection, which also sees sporting dogs strongly represented; indeed, the majestic Pointer at Sunset by Maud Earl, now on display above the mantelpiece in the Den, was one of David's favourite pieces in his entire collection.

David was particularly fond of sporting dogs, and throughout his life, he either bred, owned or exhibited a variety of sporting breeds including Kerry Blue Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, English Cocker Spaniels, Pointers and Greyhounds.

ACQUISITION



Britain, Queen Anne English coat of arms quilling, 1702–07, Britain, paper, foil, gold leaf, silk, wood.
TDRF 3968

Now on display in Fermoy's Kitchen is this exceptional quilling of Queen Anne's English coat of arms with its period frame, which was acquired by the Foundation at the 2020 Shapiro's auction of the Property of Martyn Cook, our inaugural Museum Director.

Quilling is the art of using small tightly wound strips of (often gilded) paper to create a decorative design, in this case a Royal coat of arms. It was a particularly popular craft amongst ladies in Renaissance France and Italy, then later with upper class English ladies in the 18th and early 19th centuries; and was applied to a variety of media, including cabinets, stands, ladies purses, tea caddies, work baskets or storage boxes. Quilling could often be combined with embroidery and painting.

A study of the various arms of the Kings and Queens of England and Britain has revealed this particular version to be the English coat of arms of Queen Anne, the second daughter of James II, who ruled as Queen of England and Scotland from 1702 to 1707, then as Queen of the United Kingdom from 1707 to her death in 1714. A stylistic comparison with other quillings from that era suggests that this piece dates to her reign, specifically her reign as Queen of England, rather than from a later date.

This new acquisition is a fitting addition to David's collection of interesting and unusual items that can be viewed in the Kitchen as part of one of our wonderful guided tours of Fermoy House.

MEET AN ARTIST AT TDRF



On your visit to The David Roche Foundation, you might occasionally see or meet artists who come to use the collection to practice their own craft. Since last year, TDRF has had the pleasure of regular visits from sculptor, Georgina Mills.

Georgina is an Adelaide based figurative sculptor and art instructor, who between 2015 and late 2020, lived, studied and taught in Florence, Italy. Her time spent there and in Europe generally has greatly informed her work. Georgina primarily works from life, generally the nude. She initially interprets her concepts in clay, then casts the translation, with bronze being her preferred medium.

She regularly draws at Fermoy House to stay connected to such craftsmanship and uses this time to explore neoclassical aesthetics as well as practice her draftsman skills. A side benefit to her visits Georgina says is 'the conversations, I love talking with the curators and volunteers about art, antiquities, artefacts and collection items. There is so much knowledge and passion at the Foundation which everyone happily shares, I always leave energised'.

Georgina's website

EVENTS



Minding your Ps and Qs: Care of Samplers and Embroideries

A talk by Kristin Phillips (Principal Textiles Conservator, Artlab Australia)

Samplers and embroideries are complex, colourful and beautiful but inherently fragile. Their quality and value are directly related to their condition. Most deterioration or damage such as fading, staining or embrittlement is irreversible. Other mechanical damage can be repaired but is generally labour intensive and expensive. This underlies the importance of conservation storage and display.

The common causes of damage will be examined and explained. How to reduce these risks will be detailed with the care, treatment and conservation grade framing of textiles revealed.

Cost: \$25 (including complimentary glass of wine on arrival).

Numbers limited. Ticket for event only. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Purchase tickets

MEMBERSHIP



Our new TDRF Membership was successfully launched at the Embroidery Twilight Evening on Thursday 17th June 2021 with numerous people signing up on the night!

You too can sign up and enjoy a variety of fantastic benefits!

By becoming a member you will have access to exclusive tours and special events, and enjoy benefits such as a 25% discount on house tours and exhibition entry fees, 10% off lecture tickets and 10% off shop purchases.

Plus you will be supporting the Foundation to put on world class exhibitions, program lectures with expert guest speakers and acquire important pieces to add to the collection.

Join the TDRF membership today and be part of one of Australia's finest art institutions.

For more information about the membership or to sign up, click the button below to visit the Membership page on our website or contact info@rochefoundation.org.au

Find out more

MOVIE PRIZE GIVEAWAY



The David Roche Foundation has partnered with Palace Nova Eastend to offer our loyal supporters the opportunity to win two passes to see *Art on Screen - Pompeii: Sin City* at Palace Nova Cinemas on July 24 and 25, a journey back in time, to two thousand years ago, laying bare the myths and characters that helped make this site extraordinary, and rendered it timeless.

Leading us though its cobbled streets is the extraordinary Isabella Rossellini, directed by Pappi Corsicato with visionary talent. Her presence and voice accompany us on a journey, showing how the myths and works uncovered there have enchanted and influenced artists the likes of Picasso, Chirico and Mozart. A delicate balancing act on the thin invisible tightrope that separates legend from reality, crossing the centuries to inspire the contemporary world.

All you have to do is **CLICK BELOW** and let us know your favourite piece in The David Roche Collection, and you enter the draw to win these tickets! The competition is open until midnight on Thursday 15 July, and the winner will be drawn on Friday 16 July.

Tickets on sale now at: <https://palacenova.com.au/films/art-on-screen-pompeii-sin-city>.

Enter the draw

SHOP

Coinciding with our Embroidery exhibition is a beautiful new card available for purchase in store or online: the Needlework Fox. With a textured linen finish to replicate the look of the original piece, this is the perfect card to send to your embroidery loving friends!

And don't forget that we also have a variety of unique and wonderful items available for purchase, including our beautiful Portraits umbrella (perfect for these wet winter months!) and inspiring Empires and Splendour: At Home with David Roche coffee table book.

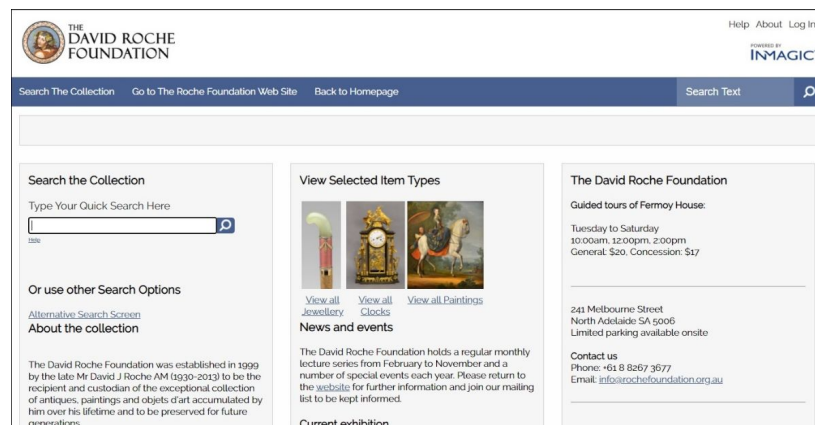
Click the button below to see what else is on offer!





Visit the shop

DIGITAL COLLECTION



Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available online? Find your favourite piece or discover something new. Click the Search button below.

Search the collection

FOLLOW TDRF

We are on Facebook and Instagram! We provide regular content through our social media channels. Follow us now to keep in



the loop!



Facebook



Instagram

LINKS WE LOVE

For centuries, samplers were used as a tool to teach young girls in Britain and Europe the important domestic craft of needlework. A variety of fine examples of these can currently be seen in *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression*. This article from the Victoria & Albert Museum provides a history of this discipline from around 1400 to the current day:

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/embroidery-a-history-of-needlework-samplers>

In this fascinating article from the Museum of London, readers are provided a short history of embroidered book coverings - a fine example of which is currently on display in our Embroidery exhibition - and are shown how to make one of the elements (the Tudor Rose) from an exceptional 1577 Bible covering:

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/stitches-time-learning-through-remaking>



The David Roche Foundation

House Museum

241 Melbourne Street

North Adelaide 5006

T: [+61 8 8267 3677](tel:+61882673677)

E: info@rochefoundation.org.au

W: www.rochefoundation.com.au

TDRF acknowledges the Kaurna people as the traditional owners of the Adelaide region. We recognise and respect Kaurna heritage, beliefs and spiritual relationship with Country, and we pay our respect to Elders past and present.



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The David Roche Foundation · 241 Melbourne Street · North Adelaide · Adelaide, SA 5006 · Australia