

# The David Roche Foundation House Museum



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## TDRF: Club Fermoy #21

Dear friends and supporters,

The month of September is full of spring potential at TDRF (should the state be fortunate enough to remain Covid-free). Now in its final weeks *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression* has attracted tremendous interest and a great deal of enthusiastic support. With many significant embroideries generously lent from private collections, religious organisations, artists, and our own public collections, this exhibition offers a rare glimpse into the richness of material to be found in South Australia. You can also now access seven sound clips and a selection of images via our website on the *Embroidery* exhibition.

The museum's SALA jewellery exhibition, *In-flight*, is now extended to Saturday 2 October and remains free to access. Two years in the making, the four jewellers from Zu Design have each responded to aspects of David Roche's collection and personal interests in creating their pieces.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to officially announce that for our final exhibition of the year, we have partnered with the National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney to bring you the highly anticipated *Salon des Refusés 2021* exhibition. We are delighted to share this

exhibition, 'the alternate Archibald prize', with audiences in South Australia for the first-time, for which National Trust members will receive a special entry price.

As ever, *Club Fermoy* is packed full of fascinating stories from David's early introduction to theatre, to jewellery made for his mother. We examine some items of porcelain gifted by Martyn Cook to our collection and one of our guides introduces the superb Gagneraux painting of *The Education of Achilles by Chiron* that hangs prominently in David's bedroom.

Good reading, and have a great September!

Best wishes,

Robert Reason  
Museum Director

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## EXHIBITIONS



### ***Embroidery: Oppression to Expression***

**FINAL WEEKS!**

With just three weeks until *Embroidery* closes, time is running out to see this amazing display of over 100 beautiful and intricate embroidered works from across Europe and Australia from 1603 to the current day.



### ***In-Flight: occurring, carried out, or present while in flight***

**NOW EXTENDED!**

Our SALA exhibition *In-Flight: occurring, carried out, or present while in flight* by Jane Bowden, Angela Giuliani, Michelle Kelly, and Simon Williams of Zu Design, has been extended until 2 October, giving us all more time to view their series of incredible and beautiful pieces of jewellery created in response to The David Roche Collection.

**Details: *EMBROIDERY:  
OPPRESSION TO  
EXPRESSION***

Until 25 September 2021

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to  
4pm

Exhibition entry \$12 adult. \$10  
concession. Children under 12 free.

**No booking required.**

**Details: *IN-FLIGHT:  
OCCURRING, CARRIED  
OUT, OR PRESENT WHILE  
IN FLIGHT***

Now until 2 October 2021

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to  
4pm

**Exhibition free.**

**No booking required.**

For those of you who can't make it to Adelaide to view *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression*, you can now enjoy the next best thing - a new series of short clips of some of the amazing pieces on display while listening to commentary by curators, Robert Reason and Nathan Schroeder, and artists, Sera Waters and Makeda Duong.

Just click the link below and enjoy!

[Visit Embroidery Online](#)

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**UPCOMING EXHIBITION**

**SALON DES REFUSES**

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Caroline Zilinsky (Australia b.1978), *The Wedgwood Heart (Jonathan Dalton, artist)*, Sydney, oil on linen. Caroline is represented by nanda'hobbs.

Coming to Adelaide for the first time in its almost 30 year history is the National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery's *Salon des Refusés 2021*, the alternate Archibald and Wynne prize exhibition.

The *Salon des Refusés* was initiated by the S.H. Ervin Gallery in 1992 in response to the large number of works entered into the Art Gallery of New South Wales' (AGNSW) Archibald Prize which were not selected for display in the official exhibition.

Each year the S.H. Ervin Gallery's panel is invited to go behind the scenes of the judging process for the Archibald Prize and Wynne Prize at the AGNSW to select an exhibition from the many hundreds of works entered in both prizes but not chosen for that year's exhibition.

The resulting *Salon des Refusés 2021* is a not to be missed display of over 50 portraits and landscapes, an examination of contemporary Australian art practices that have been chosen for their quality, diversity, humour and experimentation.

### **Details: *SALON DES REFUSÉS 2021***

9 OCTOBER - 11 DECEMBER 2021

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

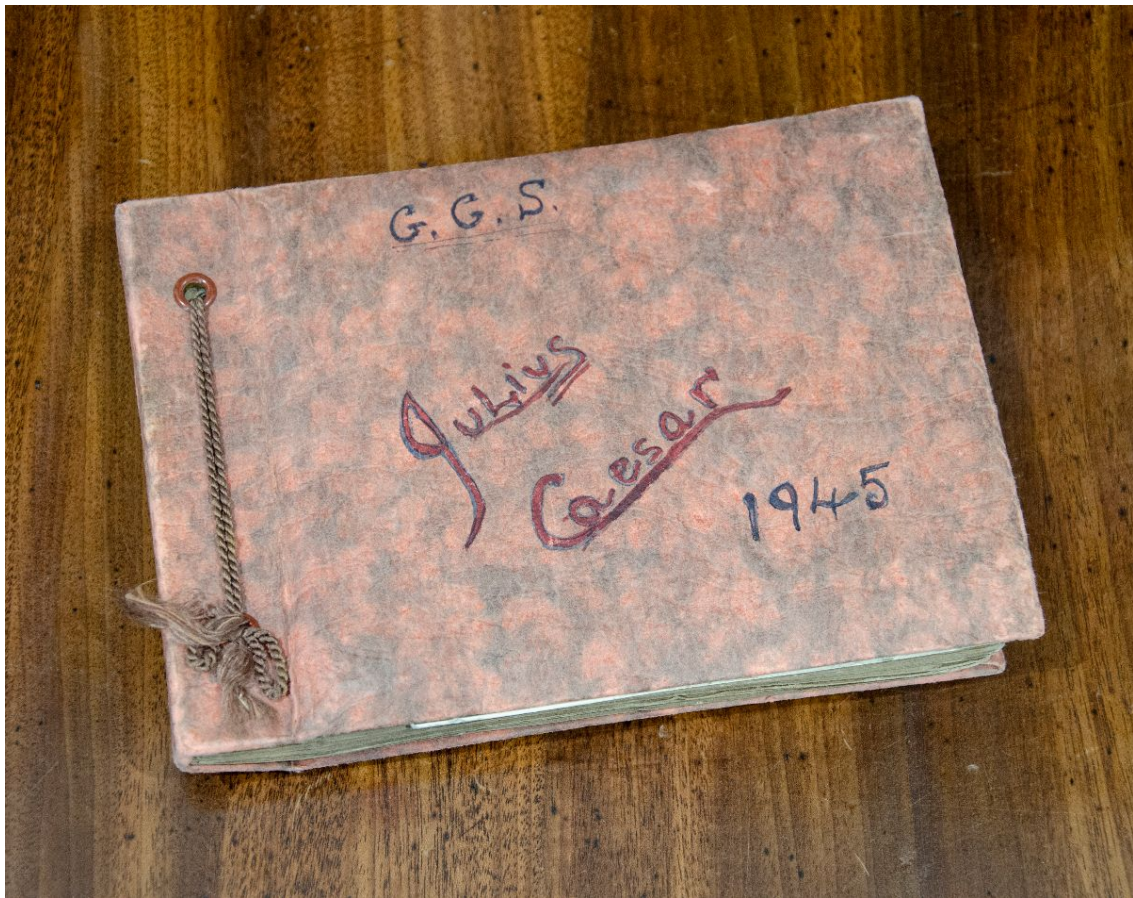


Exhibition entry \$12 adult. \$10 concession.  
\$8 National History Trust Members. Children under  
12 free.

No booking required.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES



For his secondary schooling, David Roche was sent by his parents to Geelong Grammar in Victoria from 1944-1948. Amongst his favourite subjects at school was drama, and to that end, he performed in a number of the school plays while at Geelong, including Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* in 1945, in which David played Clitus, a soldier of Brutus and Cassius.

David's lasting affection for that particular school play is demonstrated in his having retained a small photo album on the front of which he has inscribed 'G.G.S. / Julius Caesar / 1945' in pen, while inside are a variety of black and white photographs of different scenes from the performance of this play.

The photographs show the boys in classical dress inhabiting a minimalist set. Notably, the set designer for these plays was famed German/Australian Bauhaus artist, Ludwig Hirschfeld-Mack (1892-1965), who was then Art Master at Geelong.

One might be tempted to see in David's keeping of this memento of his performance in a play set in the last years of Roman Republic, the early seeds of what would later blossom into a full-blown love of the neoclassical style, now so gorgeously manifested in every room of his Fermoy House.

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## CANINE TIDBITS



Australia, *Afghan hound brooch*, c.1970, Sydney, gold, white gold, diamonds, sapphires, 4.0 x 5.0 cm.

TDRF 3404

*Did you know...*

From the moment David Roche first saw Mazari of Carloway, he knew that Mazari was a dog that he needed for his own Fermoy kennels. Unfortunately, such was the asking price for this magnificent Afghan that David could not afford him on his own, and so to make up the difference, he turned to his mother, Dorinda, who was happy to assist her son with his acquisition, thereby becoming part owner of Mazari.

To thank his mother, David had this wonderful brooch made for her. Based on a photograph of Mazari that can be seen on display in David's Dressing room, the body is made of 18ct white gold with yellow gold to the head, collar, back, tail and paws, in these sections a combination of diamonds and sapphires have been added to contrast with the rich tones of the yellow gold. Dorinda was said to have been delighted with the gift, and she wore it regularly. Later, after her passing, it returned to David.



It can now be seen on display in the Regency terrarium in David's Drawing room.

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## TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Leslie S. discusses his favourite of David Roche's numerous neoclassical paintings, the impressive *The education of Achilles by Chiron* by late 18th century French artist, Bénigne Gagneraux.



Bénigne Gagneraux (France 1756-1795), *The education of Achilles by Chiron*, 1785, Rome, oil on panel, 97.6 x 125.4cm. TDRF 2872

This work, painted by the talented young French artist, Bénigne Gagneraux, was once in the collection of Cardinal François de Bernis, comte de Lyonnais. Born into an impoverished but noble French family, de Bernis was a friend of Madame de Pompadour and served as a diplomat for many years before being made a cardinal in 1758. When this picture was commissioned, Gagneraux was living in Rome where de Bernis was French ambassador.

Gagneraux was born and trained in Dijon, but moved to Rome in 1779 after winning the prix-de-Rome, where he was known as a painter of mythological and battle scenes. However, perhaps his most well-known work is the *Meeting of Gustavus III of Sweden with Pope Pius VI*, now in the King's Palace in Stockholm.

*The education of Achilles by Chiron* displays a wonderful study in movement, with the

sensual youthfulness of the half-naked Achilles caught in the act of hurling his spear downwards at his prey, which has twisted its head backwards in ferocious defiance. The artist's use of the downward diagonals of spear and parallel club contrast with the upward diagonals of both animals' bodies directing the viewer's gaze directly to the target, the tiger's head. The drama is heightened by the luscious red of Achilles' flying drapery, the animals' tails and a somewhat menacing cloudscape.

The myth is based on the life of Chiron the Centaur who, in contrast to other centaurs - who were violent, savage and lustful - was famous for his wisdom and knowledge of medicine and astrology. He was highly revered as a teacher and tutor. Among his pupils were many Greek heroes: Ajax, Aeneas, Theseus, Jason and Perseus. His education of the boy Achilles included the disciplines of music, medicine, horsemanship, hunting and the martial arts. Chiron was accidentally wounded by Herakles and relinquished his immortality. Zeus then placed him amongst the stars as the constellation Sagittarius (or Centaurus).

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## ACQUISITION



(L to R): New Hall Porcelain Factory (Britain 1781-1835), *'Boy and Butterfly' teapot*, c.1795, Staffordshire, porcelain, polychrome enamel. TDRF 3693

Chelsea-Derby Factory (Britain 1770-1784), *Dessert plate*, c.1770, porcelain, polychrome enamel, gilt. TDRF 3687

Chamberlain Worcester (Britain 1788-1852), *Orange-ground bough pot*, 1798-1805, porcelain, polychrome enamel, gilt. TDRF 3694

Like David Roche, Martyn Cook was a great admirer of fine European porcelain, with a preference for British examples. A small number were acquired as part of the Martyn Cook Bequest of 2020.

A delightful c.1795 *'Boy and Butterfly' teapot* by New Hall (Britain 1781-1835), named after



its distinct chinoiserie pattern, known alternately as 'Boy and Bug', which features anglicized 'bubble-head' Chinese figures. One of a number of such designs used by British factories in the Regency period, it is derived from fashionable imported Chinese Export porcelain designs. The teapot is but one part of a much larger tea service, which apart from the teapot also included a teapot stand, creamer, covered sugar, plates, tea bowls and saucers. The chinoiserie taste was exceptionally popular during the English Regency period, particularly with the Prince Regent himself, whose Brighton Pavilion is a monument to the Prince's (later King's) love of that style.

The c.1770 *Dessert plate* is a gorgeous example from the Chelsea-Derby Porcelain Factory (Britain 1770-1784) with finely painted neoclassical motifs including an urn to the centre, leafy garlands and trophies of war, and a rim decorated in 'Smith's Blue', picked out in gold with an acanthus leaf and flower pattern. The decoration is similar to examples by Constantine Smith, and the bright on-glaze blue to the rim is known as 'Smith's Blue' on account of its discovery by him.

The 1798-1805 *Orange-ground bough pot* is a rare early shape from Chamberlain Worcester (Britain 1788-1852), beautifully decorated on the factory's hybrid hard paste body. On the front is a still life of fruits including pear, grapes, plums, peach, apple, lemon, figs and pineapple by young porcelain painter, Thomas Baxter (Britain 1782-1821). Martyn bought it to match David's *Orange-ground bough pot*, which no doubt would have pleased him.

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## EVENTS



### English Embroidery: Opus Anglicanum to Alexander McQueen

A talk by Roger Leong (Senior Curator, Applied Arts, Powerhouse Museum)

Thursday 16 September | 6PM (ACST)

*Opus anglicanum*, or English work, was treasured across Europe during the Middle Ages for its unrivalled artistry and technical brilliance. The development of secular embroidery

from the Tudor through to the Georgian eras witnessed a flowering of naturalistic ornament. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, due to the influence of William Morris, embroidery underwent an artistic revival. Embroidery later served multiple demands from political resistance and the rise of modernism to the celebration of Empire in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. This talk draws on highlights of English embroidery from the 1300s to the present taking in ecclesiastical vestments, ceremonial dress, furnishings, and fashionable dress from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to now.

**As this will be an online Zoom lecture, it will be possible to watch either at TDRF or from home.**

**Cost:** \$12 at TDRF (complimentary glass of wine on arrival), \$6 from home

**Numbers limited. Book early to avoid disappointment.**

**Book now**



## **Embroidery now and beyond**

**A free panel discussion with artists Margaret Lee, Makeda Duong, Caitlin Bowe and the co-creator of Stitch & Resist, Britt Burton, hosted by Nathan Schroeder, Assistant Curator.**

**Saturday 18 September | 10:30AM**

The art of embroidery is woven through human history. Since the earliest examples dating back to Asia in the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE, embroidery has persisted as a means for generation after generation of people to express themselves, across different continents and countries, regardless of religion or race or social class. It appears across a variety of mediums: samplers, religious vestments and hangings, book coverings, fashion apparel and home furnishings. Today, in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the embroidery tradition remains as strong as ever.

In this free panel event, Nathan Schroeder, Assistant Curator, will talk to a panel of South Australian embroiderers and curators about the current state of embroidery, with reference to their own work, as well as how they see the field of embroidery developing and evolving into the future.

**The David Roche Foundation**  
**241 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide**  
**Roman room**

**Cost: FREE**

**1 hour**

**Numbers limited.**

**Registration is required due to COVID restrictions.**

**Register early to avoid disappointment.**

**Register now**

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**MOVIE PRIZE GIVEAWAY**

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The David Roche Foundation has partnered with Palace Nova Eastend to offer our loyal supporters the opportunity to win two passes to see *Lucian Freud: A Self Portrait* at Palace Nova Cinemas on September 11 and 12.

For the first time in history the Royal Academy of Arts in London, in collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, is bringing together Lucian Freud's self-portraits.

Consisting of more than 50 paintings, prints and drawings that span nearly seven decades, this exhibition gives a fascinating insight into both his psyche and his development as a painter, from his earliest portrait painted in 1939 to the final one executed 64 years later. When seen together, his portraits represent an engrossing study into the dynamic of aging and the process of self-representation. This intensely compelling exhibition creates a unique opportunity for EXHIBITION ON SCREEN to reveal the life's work of a master in one show.

All you have to do is CLICK BELOW and let us know your favourite section of our newsletter, and you enter the draw to win these tickets! The competition is open until midnight Thursday 9 September, and the winner will be drawn on Friday 10 September.

Tickets on sale now at: <https://palacenova.com.au/films/exhibition-on-screen-lucian-freud>

**Enter the draw**

**LIVING MEMORY:  
NATIONAL PORTRAIT PRIZE  
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**



*Finalist 2021: Marty's living room 2020, Benny Capp*

If you're missing being able to visit your favourite galleries, then we've got good news for you. You can currently view all the finalists for the National Portrait Gallery's *Living Memory* National Photographic Prize in their online gallery as well as enjoy and vote for your favourite work in the *Living Memory* People's Choice Award!

Not only will the artist with the most love receive \$5,000 from The David Roche Foundation, you could win yourself a swag of prizes too, all from the comfort of your own living room!

Click below and make your choice!

**Visit the Living Memory website**

**SHOP**



The David Roche Foundation shop has a number of new pieces of merchandise on offer in the month of September, including our new fridge magnet range in four unique designs: *Adam and Eve (Duc D'Orleans and Madame De Parabere)*, *Bao*, *Irish and English Setter on the Moor*, and *The fowl run (Geflügelhof)*.

Which is your favourite?

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

[Visit the shop](#)

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**MEMBERSHIP**





Don't forget about our new Membership program!

Sign up now and enjoy a variety of fantastic benefits, including:

- **access to exclusive tours and special events**
- **a 25% discount on house tours and exhibition entry fees**
- **10% off lecture tickets**
- **10% off shop purchases**
- **and so much more!**

In addition, you will be supporting TDRF to continue presenting world-class exhibitions, lectures with expert guest speakers from across the country and acquiring 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 [memberships@rochefoundation.org.au](mailto:memberships@rochefoundation.org.au).

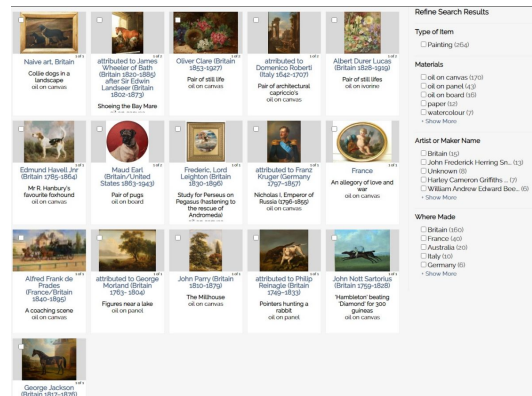
**Find out more**

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**DIGITAL COLLECTION**

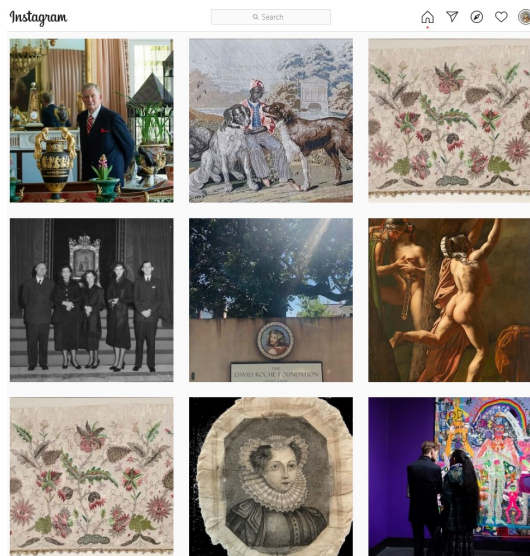
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available online? Search by title, artist, type, materials, and place made to find out more about your favourite piece or discover something new.

Click the Search button below.



Search the collection

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Stitch & Resist is a craftivist movement conceived by Nikki Sullivan and Britt Burton of the Centre of Democracy in Adelaide, which, through the creation of small embroidered works that make social and political statements, seeks to make meaningful change while also building communities. Their exhibition at the Mill ran during the month of July 2021, and you can still see many of the works on their website:

<https://stitchandresist.com>

<https://stitchandresist.com/gallery/>

Been to the *Embroidery* exhibition, but still haven't had your fill of samplers? Then head over to the Sampler Archive, an collaborative effort between multiple universities and other institutions in the United States with the intention of creating "a freely available and easily accessible online searchable database with information and high-resolution images of all known American samplers in public and private collections nationally and internationally":

<http://samplerarchive.org>



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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, present and emerging.



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