
CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 40



Image: There are surprises to see in every corner of Fermoy House. Photo: Dan Schultz

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

The *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022* has come to a close at TDRF after a very successful season. Last Thursday, visitors to our Twilight Evening were treated to two vibrant performances by Melbourne performance and visual artists The Huxleys, and a last chance to see the exhibition before it travels to Queensland. We are now transforming our gallery spaces for an exhibition of Arthur Boyd's spectacular tapestry series 'The Life of Saint Francis'. Executed between 1970 and 1974, twelve of the twenty tapestries illustrating the life of the saint will be displayed, the largest ever showing of these remarkable, contemplative works. I'd like to thank the National Gallery of Australia for loaning these treasures, including sketches, pastels, and lithographs that inform the development of the tapestries.

This month we welcome art historian Sylvia Sagona to present two lectures on French and Venetian art. On Wednesday 19 April Sylvia will speak to the life and career of pre-eminent French neoclassical artist Jacques-Louis David, and on Thursday 20 April she will explore the mythology around Venice, and how this was

manipulated to appeal to tourism in the eighteenth century and beyond. These lectures have been selling strongly and only limited tickets remain, so be sure to book now to avoid disappointment!

We wish you a happy and safe Easter, and look forward to welcoming you back to tours of Fermoy House this month. We look forward to welcoming you to Arthur Boyd's remarkable work from Friday 28 April.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

COMING SOON



Image: Arthur Boyd (artist), Tapeçarias de Portalegre (manufacturer), *St Francis when young turning aside* 1972. High warp tapestry. Collection: National Gallery of Australia, purchased 1975. Arthur Boyd's work reproduced with the permission of Bundanon Trust.

ARTHUR BOYD: THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS

Celebrated Australian artist Arthur Boyd and his vision of the endearing medieval Italian saint, St. Francis of Assisi, comes to Adelaide from the collection of the National Gallery of Australia.

Rarely seen, a selection of Boyd's large, and spectacular tapestries illustrating the life of the saint are joined by sketches, pastels and lithographs exploring the universal human conditions of love and pain, sacrifice and compassion. Only at The David Roche Foundation.

Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis

28 April - 2 September 2023

Tuesday to Saturday 10AM – 4PM

No booking required.

\$15 adult. \$12 concession.

Children under 12 free.

PRINCIPAL LENDER



EVENT

Director's Tour: The Life of Saint Francis

Be among the first to see *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis*, and learn more about the artist and this powerful series of work. After tea and coffee in the Roman Room at 10.30am, you will tour the exhibition with TDRF Museum Director Robert Reason, who will provide insights into Arthur Boyd's life and art, and spiritual connection to the story of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Limited parking available on-site.

Wheelchair accessible.

Cost: General \$20 | TDRF Members \$16

Price includes lights refreshments upon arrival, exhibition entry, and guided tour with Museum Director Robert Reason.

[Book your tickets now](#)

EVENT

The Sylvia Sagona Lecture Series



Image detail: Jacques-Louis David, *Sacre de l'empereur Napoléon 1er (The Coronation of Napoléon)*, 1805-07. Musée du Louvre, Paris. INV 3699.

Wednesday 19 + Thursday 20 April 2023

In April 2023, The David Roche Foundation is delighted to present two talks by Sylvia Sagona. An expert in French and Italian art history, Sylvia will speak on the life and career of leading French artist Jacques-Louis David, and the re-imagining of Venice as a destination in the eighteenth century.

Lecture 1 - *The fine art of survival: Jacques-Louis David: From Impresario of the Revolution and Napoléon's Empire to banishment from France*
Wednesday 19 April 2023, 6:00pm-7:15pm

There was much more to the career of David than being the artist who ushered in the new Neo Classic style which championed severity as being in harmony with the ideals of the Enlightenment. As an ardent Republican he would act as Robespierre's minister for propaganda and orchestrated the mass ceremonial rituals of the Republic which would be copied by Hitler. He transferred his allegiance and theatrical talent to the service of Napoléon whom he portrayed as he rose from General to Emperor. At the fall of Napoléon the greatest painter of the era was banished and even refused burial in France.

Lecture 2 - *Myths of the Serenissima: The rise and fall of aristocratic Venice*
Thursday 20 April 2023, 6:00pm-7:15pm

By choosing the day of the Annunciation as its founding date, Venice would forever associate itself with angels, the Virgin Mary and divine right, which has woven a spell that endures today. Painters of its Renaissance Golden Age such as Veronese, Tintoretto, Carpaccio and Bellini encoded images of Venice as Venus and Victory, Mistress of the Adriatic. Although the Republic was in drastic decline by the 18th century, it reinvented itself as a destination for the English Grand Tourists who adorned the walls of their palaces with Canaletto's mass produced Veduta

paintings. The myth has been so powerful it now threatens Venice with extinction.

Cost: Single lecture: \$25 | The Sylvia Sagona Series 2-lecture package: \$45
(all tickets include a complimentary beverage on arrival)

Book your tickets now

EVENT

Modernist Adelaide: An Architectural Revolution!



Image: Adelaide Boys High School. Photograph: Stuart Symons

Thursday 11 May 2023 6:00PM

Adelaide was fertile ground for architectural experimentation in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s, when a new breed of forward-thinking architects redefined the city's skyline and streetscapes by embracing the aesthetic, technological and social aspirations of modernist architecture. Join award-winning historian Stuart Symons, Founder of Modernist Adelaide, for this engaging talk through time to discover the mid-century jet-age of *Mad Men*-era Adelaide.

About the speaker

Stuart Symons is a mid-century architecture enthusiast and founder of Modernist Adelaide, which celebrates Adelaide's 1940s–70s architecture through tours, events, online and his book, *Modernist Adelaide: 100 Buildings 1940s–1970s*. Stuart was awarded the City of Adelaide Prize Commendation 2021 and South Australian Emerging Historian of the Year 2019.

Cost: Adults: \$20 | Concessions: \$18 | TDRF Members \$16
(all tickets include a complimentary beverage on arrival)

Book your tickets now

*A South Australia's History
Festival Event*

South
Australia's

Wonder

History
Festival

1-31 May 2023

CANINE TIDBITS



David Roche's death in 2013 concluded a lifetime of love and work with dogs, in particular Afghan Hounds and Kerry Blue Terriers. One decade on from his death, it is timely to remember David Roche's passionate contribution to the show dog community over so many years.

This photograph is of David Roche with Ch Fermoy Liffey, a Kerry Blue Terrier who won multiple Best in Show awards, including the 1987 Royal Adelaide Show. Liffey acquired his name from the River Liffey in Ireland. Here, David Roche and Liffey are competing in the United States, under Phyllis Wolfish (left).

This picture hangs in the Dressing Room at Fermoy House.

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Jenny T speaks to a piece of bar furniture from the early 19th century.



Image: Britain, *Cellarette* 1810-1820. Mahogany, brass, gilt bronze. TDRF 2906.

Among the splendid furniture in Fermoy House you will find an elegant Regency Period Cellarette with a solid Mahogany carcass and brass inlay. It sits discreetly opposite the front door and is easily overlooked. It is an item which evokes the days of Dining Room etiquette and dress codes.

The cellarette retains the original red Morocco lining to the lid and original Barrons locking mechanism. A lockable drawer could be used for decanting utensils. Feet in the shape of paws and decorative elements of lion masks with rings echo embellishments on larger furniture in the collection.

Wooden boxes to hold bottles appeared in the fifteenth century. Then, wine bottles were squat, and the shape and size of Cellarettes has changed through time, often reflecting the prevailing decorative elements of the day. The term "cellarette" first appeared in George Hepplewhite's posthumously published work *The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide*. In 1803, furniture designer Thomas Sheraton wrote, "Cellarette, amongst cabinet makers, denotes a convenience for wine". Cellarette designs sometimes disguised the cabinet's purpose as a store for liquor, especially during American Prohibition.

Made of fine timbers such as Mahogany, Rosewood and Walnut, the cellarette would keep a few bottles of wine at a stable temperature before the dinner. No doubt the gentleman of the household would instruct his butler which wines to bring from the cellar for the evening meal.

I find these cellarettes charming in all the various sizes and shapes and speak of an elegance in dining that some may remember.

JWT

To see this handsome cellarette and other treasures collected by David Roche, book your tour of Fermoy House today!

Book now

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Image: Kay Finch (designer), Freeman-McFarlin Potteries (manufacturer), *Mr & Mrs Bird* 1960s. Earthenware, glazed. TDRF 3720

Mr. and Mrs. Bird were designed by Kay Finch and produced by Freeman-McFarlin Potteries through the 1960s. Finch was born in El Paso, Texas in 1903 but rose to fame for the ceramics she designed and produced in Corona del Mar, California from the late 1930s onwards. *Mr. and Mrs. Bird* are in fact a reprise of an earlier design of love birds that Finch produced, this second iteration conveys just as much character as the originals.

David Roche knew Kay Finch personally through her other love: dogs. She led Crown Crest Kennels, and her most successful ceramics depict a variety of dog breeds, especially Afghan Hounds, for which she was famed as a breeder. David Roche imported several dogs from Crown Crest Kennels, including Miss Carousel and Miss Capriole. Miss Capriole was mother to a number of Australian Champions, including Fermoy Holy Joe.

Over the years David Roche was gifted and collected a number of works by Kay Finch, ranging from mass-produced commercial pieces such as these, to unique works hand made by the artist, and modestly proportioned yet nonetheless handsome bronzes of Greyhounds and Afghans, several of which were modelled after her own dogs.

Search the collection online to discover many hidden treasures collected by David Roche.

Search the collection

MEMBERSHIP



Have you considered joining The David Roche Foundation House Museum membership?

By joining, you will be able to 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.

Sign up to TDRF membership today, so you can 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.

[Find out more](#)

GIFT SHOP

The David Roche Foundation has a wide range of beautiful products on sale which make perfect gifts or a treat for yourself. Here are some of our favourites.



THE
David Roche
FOUNDATION

A must-have for any past or future visitor to Fermoy House, our richly illustrated Guidebook details the life of David Roche AM and his passion for collecting. Only \$20.00

Buy Now



Empires and Splendour
AT HOME WITH DAVID ROCHE

With over 300 pages of stunning works of art collected by David Roche, our second, expanded edition of *Empires and Splendour* is a must for an art lover's library! \$80.00

Buy Now



IN STORE ONLY

An extraordinary selection of cushions by Timorous Beasties have just landed in the TDRF store! Made in Scotland from the finest materials, these cushions will add a touch of vibrant luxury to any interior!

Priced from \$155.00 - \$235.00.

Order online at <https://www.rochefoundation.com.au/shop/> or by calling us on (08) 8267 3677 or emailing us at info@rochefoundation.org.au (with your contact details). Click and collect is available.

We now post internationally!

Visit the shop

COLLECTION

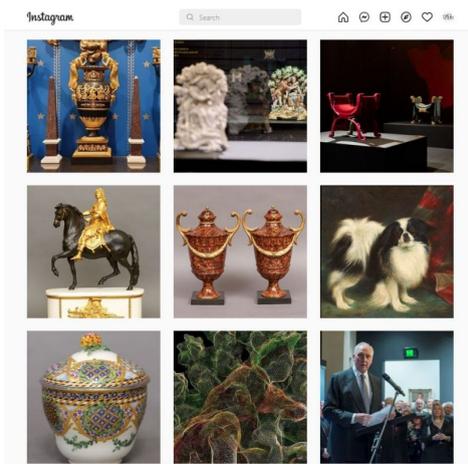
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

Search by title, artist, type, materials, and place made to find out more about your favourite piece or discover something new.



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

In his later years David Roche acquired a small but noteworthy collection of items made at the workshop of legendary Russian jeweller Fabergé. Among the works is a two-tone gold vesta case once owned by Count Mikhail Nikolayevich Muravyov, who was born in April 1845. One of the world's most impressive collections of Fabergé is held by the Royal Collection Trust. Lovers of the jeweller's art and especially the work of Fabergé will delight in the Royal Collection Trust's [online gallery](#).



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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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