

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 51



Image: Patterns are plentiful in our current exhibition *Quilts: The Fabric of War 1760–1900*. Come and see them today!

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

We welcomed many local, interstate, and international visitors to the gallery over the last month, and enjoyed sharing the treasures of Fermoy House and the intricate beauty of *Quilts: The Fabric of War 1760–1900*. It was wonderful to see so many people attending the arts and culture offerings in Adelaide during the festival month. We also had a very special visit from the Australiana Society, who held their first national tour of South Australia. Thank you for visiting!

During April we are delighted to have guest curator of *Quilts* Dr Annette Gero return to Adelaide to present an evening lecture on intarsia quilts. She will also lead an already sold-out tour of the exhibition. Make sure to visit the exhibition now before the crowds in May.

In this issue we feature a new acquisition of a rare satirical jug documenting the abdication of Napoleon, while one of our volunteers examines an existing work in the collection with links to the Emperor. Our Canine Tidbits continues, and we're delighted that Jo Vandeppeer will be presenting a talk here in early May as part of the SA History Festival.

If you'd like to keep visiting dynamic exhibitions and events in the future please remember us when considering who you'd like to make a donation to this year. Small or large, every donation over \$2 is tax deductible and can be done online or in person. We receive no government funding, so your donation really does make a difference.

Best wishes,

CURRENT EXHIBITION

Quilts

The Fabric of War

1760 - 1900

The Annette Gero Collection



Image: Visit us and explore this remarkable collection of quilts, many of which have not been exhibited before.

Immerse yourself in the mesmerising world of historical quilts in this captivating exhibition, showcasing unseen treasures from Annette Gero's private collection, acquired both in Australia and overseas. See extraordinary geometric patterns, exotic animals, biblical tales, and the intricate depiction of the Venetian state galley, all intricately woven into these quilts. Crafted by men using vivid military fabrics from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, these rare patchwork quilts have a rich story to tell. Whether sewn during military service or after returning home, these fascinating quilts bear witness to the Prussian, Napoleonic, and Crimean wars, and British India.

Don't miss this Adelaide-exclusive opportunity to journey through history via the art of quilting. It's an experience not to be missed.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

An extensive, richly illustrated exhibition catalogue is available for purchase [online](#) and onsite at the TDRF Store for \$49.50.

Publication sponsored by the Gordon Darling Foundation.



Until 18 May 2024
Tuesday to Saturday
10:00am – 4:00pm

Purchase your ticket online
Tickets also available at the door

**\$12 Adult. \$10 Concession.
\$9 TDRF Member.
Children under 12 free.**

**Guided Exhibition Tours
Thursdays 11:30am
[Book your tour here](#)**

SPECIAL EVENT

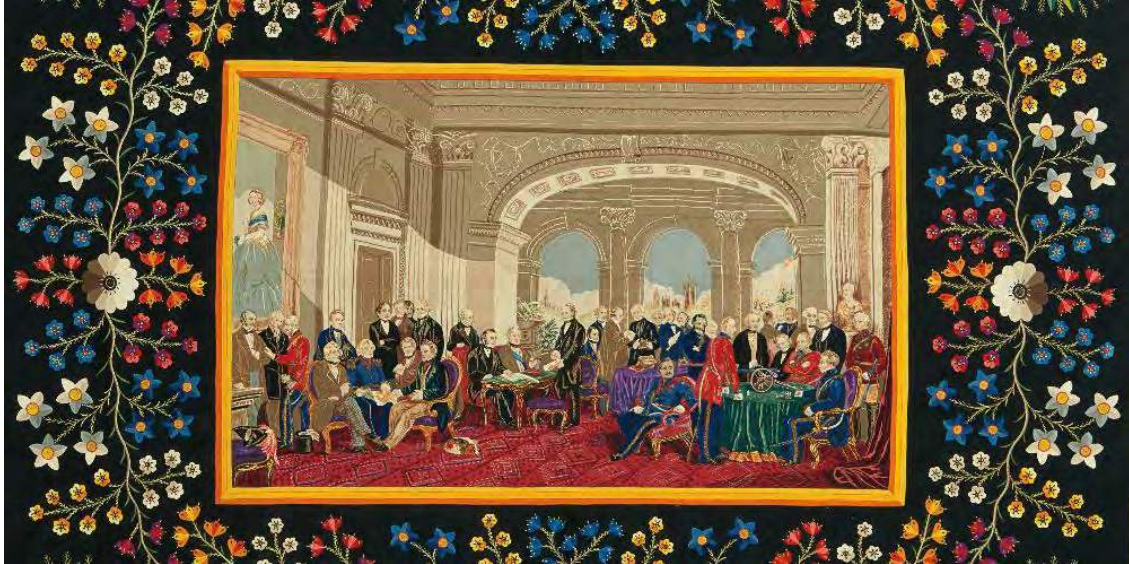


Image detail: *The Intellect and Valour of Great Britain*, made in London with elements made in Bohemia c. 1870, wool, embroidery. The Annette Gero Collection

THE EXCITEMENT OF COLLECTING

**A lecture by Annette Gero
Thursday 18 April 6:00pm–7:15pm**

*One finds a quilt. It has no story.
One looks at the fabric. One looks at how it was made. One looks at the imagery.*

Quilts tell us extraordinary stories. Through them we might bear witness the marriage of King George III; America's emancipation in the War of Independence; a family's immigration from Prussia to Australia; or even the first giraffes seen in Europe. Some were created by Australian soldiers returning from war; some imitate renowned 18th-century artwork. One quilt's story even revolves around a scandalous theft from a Russian Princess, betrothed to Queen Victoria's third son! The fascinating stories woven into quilts provides glimpses into the times and places that they represent.

In this talk, Dr Annette Gero shares insights into the stories behind the fabulous textiles which she has discovered and documented over the last two decades. Sweeping across continents and centuries, this talk will also cast light upon a convict quilt which hold particular relevance to Australia.

Thursday 18 April | 6:00pm–7:15pm

General: \$25 | TDRF Member: \$22.50

Ticket includes one beverage on arrival. No entry to *Quilts: the Fabric of War 1760-1900* or Fermoy House.

Book now

SPECIAL EVENT



Image detail: Adelaide School of Design *Portière* 1901, silk on silk moiré. Royal Collection Trust, RCIN 21415. © His Majesty King Charles III 2024

ADELAIDE SCHOOL OF DESIGN PORTIÈRE

A lecture by Jo Vandeppeer
Thursday 9 May 6:00pm–7:15pm

The Royal Collection's *Portière* 1901 is the keeper of a forgotten South Australian story. To commemorate Federation, this unique work was commissioned, executed and presented by women to the future Queen Mary. Yet for a period of time, it was nowhere to be found.

In this lecture, Dr Jo Vandeppeer sets the scene and pulls back the curtain to reveal how from either ends of the globe, *Portière* 1901 has been rediscovered.

About the Speaker

Dr Jo Vandeppeer is a South Australian historian whose research focuses on the decorative arts, colonial artists and the Adelaide School of Design. She is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide and recently received the Art History and Curatorship Alumni Network grant to investigate the *Portière* in the Royal Collection Trust.

Thursday 9 May | 6:00pm–7:15pm

General: \$20 | Concession: \$18 | TDRF Member: \$16

Ticket includes one beverage on arrival. No entry to *Quilts: the Fabric of War 1760-1900* or Fermoy House.

This event is proudly presented as a part of South Australia's History Festival 2024

South
Australia's

History Festival

Book now

CANINE TIDBITS



The transition from summer to autumn brings with it more temperate weather, which is welcomed by both dogs and exhibitors alike. At Fermoy Kennels, autumn saw preparation for large shows and Breed Specialties, especially The Sydney Royal Easter Show. Exhibitors travel from around Australia to participate in these meetings; it is an exciting time to see friends again, watch young dogs growing up and observe the adults in their prime.

In this photograph, Finnish judge Ritva Raita presents Ch. Fermoy Liffey with Best in Show at the 1987 Adelaide Royal. An exceptional Kerry Blue Terrier bred and owned by David Roche, Liffey was a prolific winner during his career, taking out titles including Best Kerry Blue Terrier at the 1986 Royal Melbourne Show, and Best in Breed at the NSW Canine Council's 1990 Spring Competition. Photographer: C S Photography.

NEW ACQUISITION



Image: Dillwyn & Co., Cambrian Pottery (Wales 1811-1817), James Brindley, engraver of caricature (fl. 1810s), *Jug: Bonaparte Dethron'd* 1814, earthenware, transfer print, canary yellow glaze. The David Roche Collection, purchased 2024.

The Foundation has supplemented its Napoleonic collections with the purchase of a satirical jug produced at the Cambrian Pottery, Wales, at about the time of Napoleon's 1814 defeat and abdication.

The Dutch shape jug is transfer-printed with a satirical cartoon engraved by James Brindley. Central in the scene is Napoleon, shackled, being pulled towards a hole by a horned devil. Napoleon laments 'Oh, Cursed Ambition What hast thou brought me to now.' Surrounding this, a soldier taunts the disgraced Emperor, a former ally retracts his salutation, two onlookers discuss Napoleon's exile to Elba, and minstrels sing a song. The jug's rim is inscribed 'April 1st 1814', and deliberately connects Napoleon's fall to April Fools' Day. Titled *Bonaparte Dethron'd*, the jug was one of two James Brindley designs that the Cambrian Pottery put into production. The other, titled *Peace and Plenty*, commented on the May 1814 Treaty of Paris.

The jug is in very fine condition, and was previously in the collection of British glass expert and antique dealer Martin Mortimer MBE (1928-2022). It complements and further enriches The David Roche Foundation's strong Napoleonic holdings, which include a Durs Egg pistol presented to Napoleon by Colonel Thomas Thornton; a bronze portrait of Napoleon modelled by Jean-Bertrand Andrieu; portraits of Napoleon's first fiancée, Desirée Clary and a mistress Catherine Joséphine Duchesnois; and many other items of interest

Take a closer look at this fascinating jug and many other treasures in our collection online, anytime!

[Search the collection](#)

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Leslie S draws our eye to a pair of handsome bronze reliefs.



Image: after Bertel Thorvaldsen (Denmark 1770–1844), *Two reliefs after 'Alexander the Great's entry into Babylon'* modelled nineteenth century, cast in bronze 2006, The David Roche Collection.

An impressive pair of bronze reliefs depicting a cavalry procession hang in the museum foyer. The reliefs have always caught my attention because of their tense excitement seen in the agitation of the soldiers and the powerful rearing movements of the horses.

The reliefs represent sections of a much larger work executed by the Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770–1844). A rival of the Italian sculptor Antonio Canova (1757–1822), Thorvaldsen was commissioned by Napoleon in 1811 to create a frieze for the Hall of Honour in the Palazzo del Quirinale in Rome. Napoleon had the intention of using the palace as his Italian domicile.

The original frieze measures 35 metres long and 1 metre in height. It represents Alexander the Great's triumphal entry into Babylon after he defeated the Persian Army in 331. The frieze depicts Alexander riding in a chariot followed by a procession of Macedonian infantry and cavalry. They march towards representatives of the vanquished Persians, who welcome and pay homage to the victors. Thorvaldsen likely took inspiration from similar iconography on friezes made for the Parthenon Temple, Athens.

Thorvaldsen also commissioned a publication depicting engravings of the frieze. Several friezes were subsequently commissioned for other patrons, including one in marble, and an expanded frieze which was made for the Christiansborg palace in Copenhagen.

The David Roche Collection reliefs are directly taken from two small sections of this frieze, and were cast in Australia using plaster moulds that Mr. Roche purchased in Britain.

Leslie S

To see these handsome reliefs and many more treasures, book your tour of Fermoy House today!

Book a house tour now

MEMBERSHIP



Are you a regular visitor to The David Roche Foundation House Museum? Even if you're not but are keen to support the work of the Foundation, then becoming a TDRF Member would be the ideal thing for you!

TDRF Members enable the Foundation to maintain David Roche's exquisite collection, present world-class exhibitions, program lectures with expert guest speakers and to fulfil its vision as a centre of excellence and a leader in decorative arts in Australia. By becoming a TDRF Member, you will meet like-minded enthusiasts who share your passion for art and history, and receive many great benefits including:

- 25% discount off full price house tour ticket (4 times per year)
- 25% discount off full price exhibition entry fee
- 10% discount off full price purchases in the shop (this excludes online shop)
- 10% discount off full price TDRF Lecture Series tickets
- Invitations to exclusive tours and special events
- Advance notice of TDRF programs and events
- Members only events & trips

Become a TDRF Member

You can now join the membership online by visiting www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/ Alternatively, please call into the museum or download the membership application form [here](#).

Please return your completed form by post or by dropping it off at the museum.

For further information please e-mail memberships@rochefoundation.org.au or phone 08 8267 3677.

Find out more

GIFT SHOP

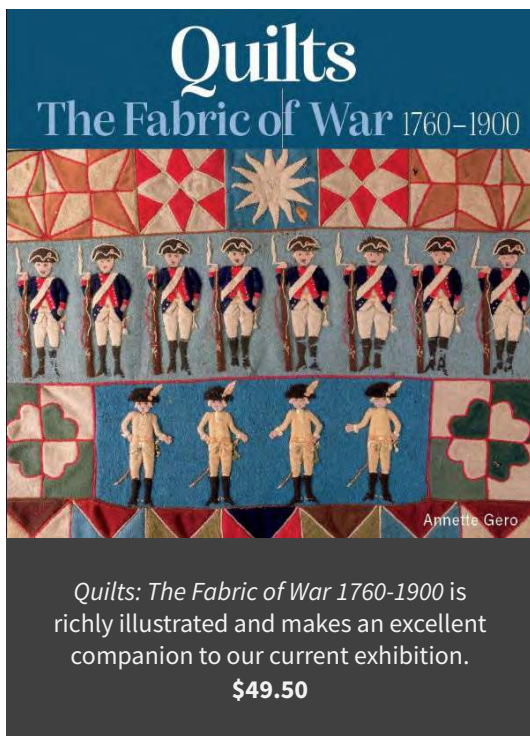


DON'T FORGET MUM!

Mother's Day is just around the corner, and the Museum Shop has items to suit every taste. We also have gift cards which may be redeemed on tours of Fermoy House (the home of The David Roche Collection), exhibition entry tickets, or our beautiful range of gifts!

AVAILABLE IN \$20, \$30, \$50 OR \$100 VALUES

Buy Now



Quilts: The Fabric of War 1760-1900 is richly illustrated and makes an excellent companion to our current exhibition.

\$49.50

Buy Now



Our silk scarves look great at any time of year. Choose from 'Derby' pattern (pictured), or 'Worcester'.

\$45.00

Buy Now

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!

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EVENTS AT A HOUSE NEAR YOU

Our friends at The Cedars and Carrick Hill offer wonderful experiences and events. Here's what's on:

THE CEDARS

In Service - Nora Heysen: War Artist

Until 25 August 2024

Nora Heysen was appointed Australia's first female official war artist 80 years ago. From 1944 to 1946 she produced over 170 works of art for the Australian War Museum in Canberra. This new exhibition, displayed in Nora Heysen's studio, features some precious studies that Nora retained in her private collection.

Following enlistment in 1943, Nora's initial task as war artist was to paint portraits of the commanding officers of the Women's Auxiliary Services. She later travelled to New Guinea and several Australian locations where she captured the diverse roles of women and men who served in medical teams and support services at home and in the Pacific region. In this adventurous period of her life, Nora Heysen met significant challenges.

Exhibition entry is included with Guided Tour or Self Guided Tour admission

[BOOK TICKETS](#)



CARRICK HILL

To Bare All: The Hayward Nudes

Until 30 June 2024

Like many avid collectors, the Haywards acquired various works depicting the nude form. From the sensual and beautiful, to the lewd and rude, this installation allows us to consider how interpretations of the human figure developed over the early-mid twentieth century.

Exhibition entry is included with house admission: Adult \$17 | Concession \$13

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Life Drawing Workshops

Join us for an exclusive after-hours drawing course led by Alex Beckinsale in Carrick Hill House Museum, surrounded by the Hayward's collection of nudes.

Beginner: 6:00–8:30pm | Friday 12, 19, 26 April and 3 May | \$320 (4 workshops) [FIND OUT MORE](#)

Intermediate: 4:30–6:30pm | Sunday 12, 19, 26 May and 2 June | \$320 (4 workshops) [FIND OUT MORE](#)



Image: Matthew Smith, *Nude with a Pearl Necklace*, c. 1930 © Estate of Matthew Smith. Photo & Design: Bit Scribbly

COLLECTION

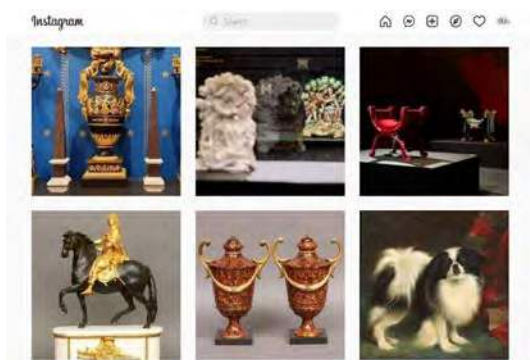
**Did you know that many of the items in
The David Roche Collection are available
to view online?**

*Use our collection search to find out more
about your favourite piece or discover
something new.*



Search the collection

KEEP IN TOUCH



We are on Facebook and Instagram!

*We provide regular content through our social
media channels. Follow us now to keep in the
loop.*



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House Museum**

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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.