



Club Fermoy

Issue 60

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to our new look *Club Fermoy* as we become known as David Roche Gallery. Recent visitors will have seen our updated external signage, and in a few weeks the gallery website will also change. In name and profile, we continue to honour our founder, David Roche. The cameo profile is in his likeness, a nod to David's consuming passion for collecting neoclassical art, including cameos and intaglios.

We look forward to David Roche Gallery going from strength to strength as we continue to present exhibitions and tours of Fermoy House.



Opening on Valentine's Day is our first show for 2025 – *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan*. Featuring more than 180 native wildflower paintings and painted porcelain this exhibition is the first opportunity to admire the exquisite work of South Australian artist Rosa Fiveash alongside her internationally renowned contemporary, Ellis Rowan.

Read on for more about *Nature Revealed* and our recent acquisition of an extremely rare pair of Sèvres jugs illustrated with symbols of the French Revolution.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Director, David Roche Gallery

EXHIBITION



Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan

Opens 14 February 2025

The Australian wildflower paintings of Fiveash and Rowan come together for the first time in this landmark exhibition exploring South Australia's rich botanical collections. Challenging Victorian conventions, Ellis Rowan travelled widely and enjoyed international acclaim for her wildflower paintings, and the work of Rosa Fiveash attracted the interest of Australia's leading botanists.

Vibrant and painterly, Rowan's large watercolours of wildflowers are exhibited with the delicate botanical paintings of South Australian artist Fiveash. For many this will be the first opportunity to marvel at the botanical art created by these two inspiring women. Luminous, exquisite and meticulous, their watercolours reveal some of Australia's most beloved and endangered native flora.

[DETAILS AND TICKETS](#)

PRINCIPAL LENDER



Government
of South Australia



Botanic Gardens
and State Herbarium

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nature Revealed Twilight Evening



The evening we open late just for you!

**Thursday 20 February 5:00–7:30pm
at David Roche Gallery**

Explore the exquisite beauty of our local flora meticulously painted in watercolour when you view our current exhibition *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan*. Savour refreshments on the forecourt while you take in the evening light. Special guest Lindl Lawton, Manager Interpretation and Cultural Collections, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, and exhibition curators Robert Reason and Timothy Roberts will present lightning talks throughout the evening.

Whether you are ordinarily unable to visit during the day, or you love unique experiences to share with friends or family, our Twilight Evening is not to be missed. Gather your friends and celebrate summer together at DRG!

Book your tickets now or register your attendance and pay at the door.

[DETAILS AND TICKETS](#)

Nature Revealed Curators' Tea & Tour



**Friday 28 February 10:30am – noon
at the David Roche Gallery**

Our popular Tea & Tour is back! Enjoy tea and coffee in the Roman Room from 10:30am, then embark on a tour of *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan* led by exhibition curators Robert Reason and Timothy Roberts together with Lindl Lawton, Manager Interpretation and Cultural Collections, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium.

As you marvel at luminous watercolours that depict some of Australia's most beloved and endangered native flora, learn more about the two inspiring women who painstakingly created these exquisite works.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

NEW ACQUISITION



Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory **Pair of jugs** (*Petites buires*) **1794**

David Roche Gallery is pleased to acquire a pair of jugs made at the Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory with the support of DRG volunteer and benefactor Dr Leslie Stephan.

The jugs' unusual *petite buire* form is inspired by the antique and correlates with designs held in the Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres archives. No expense was spared in the decoration, from the rare *fond d'Or* gilt ground embellished with rich garlands of flowers and fruit to the finely painted trophies that represent Republican motifs. Decorated by painters and gilders Philippe Parpette and André-Joseph Foinet ('la France') in April 1794, these motifs feature illustrations of the French Constitution of 1793, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and two representations of the plumb line and square surmounted by a Phrygian cap.

Such overt Republican decoration is rarely seen on Sèvres porcelain, especially on the luxurious gilt ground. Created at the height of the Reign of Terror, this pair of jugs significantly strengthens the David Roche Collection's capacity to discuss shifts in French politics in the last decade of the eighteenth century.

A sizeable proportion of the Sèvres manufactory's most loyal clientele were eliminated during the 1790s but the manufactory endured and later flourished with the support of Napoleon.

David Roche Gallery is indebted to John Whitehead and Leslie Stephan for their assistance in the research of these handsome jugs. The jugs are currently displayed in the Drawing Room of Fermoy House, alongside other significant pieces from Sèvres and other European porcelain factories.



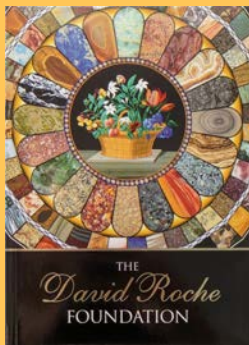
DRG Become a Member

DRG 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 DRG 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) and full price exhibition entry fee • 10% discount off full price purchases in the shop (this excludes online shop) and 10% off full price DRG Lecture Series tickets • Invitations to exclusive tours and special events • Advance notice of DRG programs and events • Members only events & trips.

SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY

DR G Shop Online



Take a walk through the home of David Roche with this Guidebook full of beautiful images and stories about David, his life, his passions and his magnificent collection.

\$20 - BUY NOW



We always keep a selection of greetings cards featuring works in the David Roche Collection, including this beautiful still life painting by Theude Grönland.

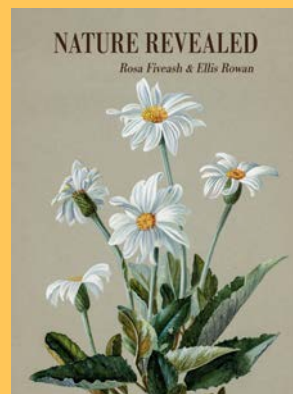
FROM \$5 - SHOP NOW

SHOP ONLINE TODAY

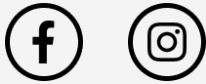
Coming soon!

Enhance your experience of *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan* and take home an exhibition catalogue. This 144-page, richly illustrated volume features new scholarship on Rowan's work in South Australia, Fiveash's life and art, and how both artists incorporated botanical illustrations into decorative arts.

\$45 - AVAILABLE MID FEBRUARY



Images in this newsletter: **Club Fermoy Banner:** Rex Wood, *Geelong Grammar graduation portrait of David J Roche* c. 1948, oil on canvas. The David Roche Collection. **Director's message:** David Roche Gallery branding being installed, 24 January 2025. Photograph: Robert Reason **Exhibition:** Rosa Fiveash, *Sturt's desert pea (Swainsona formosa)* c. 1887, watercolour and gouache on toned wove paper. Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia. **Twilight evening:** Visitors enjoying Twilight Evening at David Roche Gallery, 2021. Photograph: Nathan Schroeder. **Tea & Tour:** Ellis Rowan (designer), Royal Worcester (manufacturer), *Cup and saucer, Waratah (Telopea sp.)* 1916, hand-painted porcelain, gilt. Private collection, Adelaide. **New Acquisition:** Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory (manufacturer), Philippe Parpette and André-Joseph Foinet (decorators), *Jugs (petites buires)* 1794, hand-painted porcelain, gilt. The David Roche Collection purchased 2024, supported by Dr Leslie Stephan. **DRG Membership banner:** Germany, *Armchair (Fauteuil)* c. 1750, oak, pine, gilt, replacement silk upholstery. The David Roche Collection. **DRG Shop banner:** George Bullock, *Specimen table* c. 1815, Brazilian rosewood, brass, gilt bronze, hardstones. The David Roche Collection.



The David Roche Foundation was established in 1999 by the late David J Roche AM (1930–2013).

DAVID ROCHE GALLERY

241 Melbourne St,
North Adelaide,
Sth. Australia 5006

FERMOY HOUSE TOURS
TUESDAY – SATURDAY
10AM – 12PM – 2PM

GALLERY OPEN
TUESDAY – SATURDAY
10AM – 4PM

DRG 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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