

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 59



Image: *Style & Spirit* pairs garments by Chester Weinberg with spectacular works of art from the David Roche Collection.

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to the summer edition of Club Fermoy! This month, you can continue to enjoy the brilliance of our current exhibition exploring Chester Weinberg's fashion. Our popular Twilight Evening returns this Thursday and later in January you can hear from Distinguished Professor Peter McNeil, who will unwrap the change of guard within American fashion during the '70s and '80s.

Make sure to view the Christmas tree in the Roman room decorated with David Roche's antique and contemporary decorations, many purchased on his travels and enjoyed annually, and a Dresden-style gilt wreath comprising of animals from around the globe hanging from the mantelpiece mirror. We also have a selection of uniquely designed items inspired by the collection in the shop which make great Christmas gifts or buy the gift of Membership and share your love of TDRF with others! All purchases support the gallery, and many products are designed and made in Australia.

Thank you for being a part of the TDRF family in 2024 and thank you to our remarkable supporters and ambassadors who tell everyone about David Roche's collection and our exhibitions. From the Trustee Directors and staff, please enjoy a safe and happy festive season. Fermoy House tours and *Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* remain open until Saturday 21 December and re-open 7 January. We have big plans afoot and look forward to sharing our news in early 2025.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

CURRENT EXHIBITION



Until 25 January 2025

Style & Spirit celebrates the inspiring creativity of American couturier Chester Weinberg (1930–1985). At the height of his career Weinberg was held in the same esteem as Geoffrey Beene, Donald Brooks, and Oscar de la Renta. This exhibition reintroduces Weinberg's stylish and spirited creations to audiences in Australia for the first time.

In this glamorous celebration of fashion, more than 50 of Weinberg's best creations from the 1950s to 1980s are displayed alongside pieces by his contemporaries Cristóbal Balenciaga, Christian Dior, Pierre Cardin, and André Courrèges.

See the fashion, learn his story.

Tuesday to Saturday
10:00am – 4:00pm
(closed 22 Dec – 6 Jan inclusive)

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

Book your tickets now
also available at the door
Guided Tours Thursdays 11:30am

Presenting partner

SAMESH
A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SHINE SA & THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH

THIS THURSDAY



TWILIGHT EVENING

Thursday 5 December 5:00–7:30pm

This Thursday evening, we are open late just for you!

Explore our exhibition *Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* and immerse yourself in the finest mid-century and modern fashion. Savour refreshments on the forecourt while you take in the evening light, or relax in the air-conditioned comfort of the Roman room surrounded by sculpture. Meet *Style & Spirit* co-curators Skye Bartlett and Timothy Roberts, who 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 TDRF!

Thursday 5 December 2024 | 5:00–7:30pm

\$20

Price includes one beverage on arrival and access to *Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg*. Last entry tickets sold at 7.00pm; beverages will be available for purchase until 7:15pm. No access to Fermoy House during this event.

[Get your tickets now](#)

EVENT: NEXT MONTH



Image detail: Nancy Reagan in the red room of the White House during a photo session with *Vogue* magazine, 4 February 1981. White House Photographic Collection

WELCOME TO THE 1980S! ***From high society to MTV fashion***

Thursday 23 January 6:00–7:15pm

Explore the exciting world of the late '70s and 1980s North American and French fashion. Escapist luxury and youthful looks transformed old fashion worlds. From Chester Weinberg to Halston, Donna Karan, Yves Saint Laurent and beyond, we explore the New York 'social X rays', First Ladies, clubbers, the Yuppie handbook, Sloane Rangers, and lost innocence of fashion before and during AIDS.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Distinguished Professor Peter McNeil is an award-winning design and art historian who works at UTS. Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, for a decade he was Professor of Fashion Studies at Stockholm University. His *'Pretty Gentlemen': Macaroni Men and the Eighteenth-century Fashion World* (Yale, 2018) was a 'Book of the Year' in *London Review of Books*. He is the Australian writer for a major global art exhibition *The First Homosexuals*, to be held in Chicago, 2025.

Thursday 23 January 2025 | 6:00–7:15pm

General \$25 | TDRF Member \$22.50

Price includes one beverage on arrival. No entry to *Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* during this event.

Get your tickets now

CANINE TIDBITS



During the recent visit to Dogs SA with Dr Robert Harland, the SIDA Foundation and The David Roche Foundation Research Fellow hosted by the UniSA, TDRF Museum Director Robert Reason and Curator Timothy Roberts were fortunate to view an antique engraving of *The Totteridge XI* donated to Dogs SA by David Roche.

British canine artist Arthur Wardle was commissioned to paint *The Totteridge XI* in 1897 by prominent Fox Terrier breeder Francis Redmond. It depicts eleven of Redmond's prized 'Totteridge' Fox Terriers, namely Dryad, Ch. Daddy, Dame, Dalby, Divorcee, Diamond Court, Ch. Donnington, Ch. D'Orsay, Ch. Dame Fortune, Ch. Donna Fortune, and Ch. Dominie. Despite Wardle's competency at painting the breed, Redmond oversaw his work, and requested several changes to the work to ensure his dogs were depicted with the utmost accuracy. In 1940 Wardle's painting was donated to the Kennel Club, London, where it remains to this day.

This print of Wardle's oil painting was published by Frederick Mansell in 1898. London-based Mansell was trusted by other canine artists of the period, including Maud Earl. While we do not know where David Roche purchased this particular print, we do know that he admired Wardle's work. An oil painting by Wardle depicting Redmond's dogs D'Orsay's Donna and D'Orsay's Model titled *Wait and see* hangs in the Den of Fermoy House, among many other splendid canine portraits.

See many more canine-related treasures on a tour of Fermoy House today!

[Get your tickets now](#)

TODAY'S TREASURE



Our current exhibition *Style and Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* is not only an opportunity to observe some fabulous vintage fashion, but is also the place see some spectacular works from the David Roche Collection. Chester Weinberg admired and collected art, including works by Chagall, Chillida, Miro, and Rodin, and many of his well-heeled New York clients furnished their Manhattan residences and upstate properties with beautiful things.

Central to the 'swinging pink' wall in gallery two is a work attributed to famed French artist Anne-Louis Girodet titled *Bacchant, nymphs, and Pan*. Painted about 1809, the work depicts an idyllic mountain landscape roused by dance and music, symbolic of the pleasures of life. It may be a modello for a mural that was subsequently painted in the ballroom of Château de Compiègne during its refurbishment for Napoléon I.

It is possible that the work was compositionally based on a much earlier work, *A dance to the music of time* painted by French Baroque painter Nicolas Poussin about 1634–6. In Poussin's work, four dancers revel in front of a herm of Pan, as an old man plays a lyre. Time's fleeting course is measured by two cherubs, who blow bubbles and turn an hourglass respectively. Poussin's painting was originally owned by Giulio Rospigliosi (later Pope Clement IX), and entered France about 1806 when it was acquired by Cardinal Joseph Fesch, the maternal half-uncle and one-time political ally of Napoleon Bonaparte.

In *Style & Spirit*, *Bacchant, nymphs, and Pan* hangs above a British Regency console table flanked by a pair of armchairs attributed to Thomas Chippendale the younger, by repute the property of heiress Barbara Hutton.

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

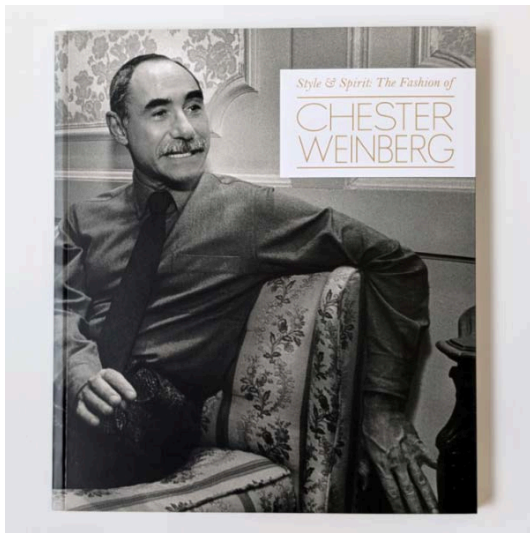
You can now join the membership online by visiting www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/ Alternatively, please call into the museum or download the membership application form [here](#).

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](#)

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



Our sumptuously illustrated exhibition catalogue *Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* is a perfect Christmas gift for fashion lovers!
Only \$30.00

Buy Now



New in stock! Our poker playing cards featuring a playful Chinoiserie flower and bird design from Nicholas-Jean Marchand's 1760s *Secrétaire abattant*.
Only \$20

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!

Visit the shop

CHRISTMAS DISCOUNTS!

From 10–14 December, we are offering our newsletter subscribers a special, 10% discount on all online and onsite purchases. To claim your discount, when viewing the shopping cart, enter the code XMAS10 into the 'coupon code' field, then click APPLY COUPON.

Orders over \$100 receive free shipping (within Australia only)

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

Native Christmas wreath workshop

Saturday 14 December | 1–3:30pm

Join Amber from 'Foliage by Amber' to make your own stunning Australian native Christmas wreath with

foliage sourced from the Heysen property, The Cedars, as well as special cuttings provided by Amber.

The experience begins with exploring the wider Heysen property to forage for native and wild grasses, flowers and foliage. Then Amber will guide you in assembling a stunning wild wreath for your door or table this Christmas. You will leave this workshop with your wreath, a new skill and renewed appreciation of the Adelaide Hills landscape.

[BOOK TICKETS](#)



CARRICK HILL

The Carrick Hill Nutcracker Mouse Hunt
Until 5 January | from 10am

Visit Carrick Hill for the Nutcracker Christmas Mouse Hunt, a festive finding adventure. Made possible by The Friends of Carrick Hill, this enchanting trail invites families and the young at heart to explore the house museum and discover Christmas mice hidden in each room. As you wander through each room, solve clues to collect a Christmas treat at the visitor desk. The hunt is included with House Admission, which is free for children under 15 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

[BOOK TICKETS](#)



COLLECTION

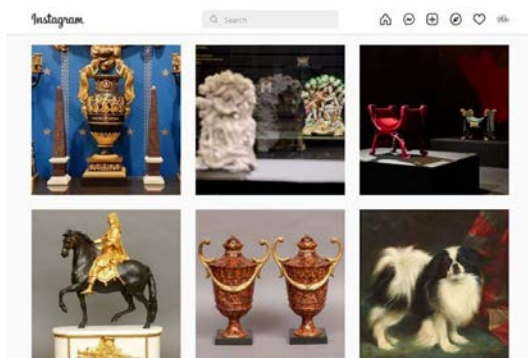
**Did you know that many of the items in
The David Roche Collection are available
to view online?**

*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.



Facebook



Instagram



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

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