



# Club Fermoy

Issue 61

Dear friends and supporters,

The Gallery is enjoying a busy start to the year and following on from the recent announcement of our new branding I'm excited to reveal our inaugural competition *Best in Show 2025: Australian Photographic Dog Prize* is open for entries. Whether a professional, amateur, or young photographer, this competition offers the opportunity to share your love of dogs and be in with the chance to win the first prize of \$5000. Dogs were central to David Roche's life from childhood onwards and what better way to celebrate this connection than to bring Australia's passion for dogs into the Gallery! Visit our website for full details and to enter.

Now open is *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan*, an exhibition of more than 180 native wildflower paintings and painted porcelain, many of which have not been exhibited publicly in decades. This expansive display offers a rare opportunity to see the South Australian work of these two botanical artists, including delicate illustrations of endangered orchids, detailed images of native flowering plants, glorious wattle blooms and eucalyptus inflorescences. Please continue reading to find our talks, tours and workshops, where you will discover more about these two remarkable women working at the turn of the twentieth century.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason  
Director, David Roche Gallery



# Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan

Now on display

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

# Ellis Rowan

The forgotten  
South Australian  
connection



**Thursday 20 March 6:00–7:15pm  
at David Roche Gallery**

The Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia holds 100 Australian wildflower paintings by Ellis Rowan, many of which depict flora endemic to South Australia. But why did Rowan create this substantial body of work, and how was the collection secured for the people of South Australia?

Join DRG Director Robert Reason and Curator Timothy Roberts for a talk that explores this story and other significant moments throughout Rowan's lengthy engagement with the people, places, and plants of South Australia.

[DETAILS AND TICKETS](#)

Nature Revealed  
**Curators'  
Tea & Tour**



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

Hear from the exhibition curators in this special Tea & Tour! You will enjoy tea and coffee in the Roman Room

As you marvel at luminous watercolours that depict some of Australia's most beloved and

from 10:30am before embarking on a tour of *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan* led by exhibition curators Robert Reason and Timothy Roberts, as well as Lindl Lawton, Manager Interpretation and Cultural Collections, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium.

endangered native flora, learn more about the two inspiring women who painstakingly created these exquisite works.

[DETAILS AND TICKETS](#)

# Native Botanicals

A workshop with Maria Ppiros



**Saturday 5 April 2:00–4:00pm  
at David Roche Gallery**

Accompany Maria in this interactive, activity-based workshop to engage with your senses and connect with nature. We will explore native South Australian edible flora, focussing on a handful of Kurna botanicals to learn about the intersections between botanical illustration, science, food and mindfulness to engage with nature.

The workshop will guide you through botanical illustration activities and native ingredient tastings. All materials are provided, including live floral specimens, special native ingredient tastings and illustration materials.

[DETAILS AND TICKETS](#)

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**BEST IN  
SHOW 2025**

Australian Photographic Dog Prize

DAVID  
ROCHE  
GALLERY

David Roche Gallery is excited to announce the inaugural *Best in Show 2025: Australian Photographic Dog Prize*. This biannual prize pays homage to the legacy of our founder, David Roche AM (1930-2013), and celebrates the many ways in which dogs play a central role in our lives.

*Best in Show 2025: Australian Photographic Dog Prize* is now open to amateur and professional photographers with a first prize of \$5000. The Young photographer category offers a first prize of \$500 and the People's Choice Award \$500. Four competition categories are open for entries: Dog Portrait; Dogs and Companions; Dogs in Action; and Puppies.

Co-judges of *Best in Show 2025* are Robert Reason, Director of David Roche Gallery and internationally renowned animal photographer Alex Cearns OAM. Competition entries close at 5pm, Monday 19 May 2025, and shortlisted photographs will be exhibited at David Roche Gallery, 30 August – 25 October 2025.



[READ MORE AND ENTER HERE](#)

TODAY'S TREASURE



## Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory

# Six botanical plates 1838–40

Alongside our current exhibition *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan*, David Roche's *Gilded aviary* is installed with six plates produced at the Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory painted with botanical specimens. The plates were originally part of a grand, 100-piece dinner service presented by Louis-Philippe, King of France to politician Narcisse-Achille, comte de Salvandy.

The service included baskets, sauce tureens, footed serving dishes, and many plates, each decorated with botanical specimens, the names of which are inscribed on the reverse. A handsome border completed each piece, comprising a gilt trellis pattern over a *bleu agate* ground. This colour was preferred by Louis-Philippe, who ordered extensive *fond bleu agate* dinner services for the Châteaux de Saint-Cloud and de Compiègne in the early 1830s, and continued to use the colour for several presentation dinner and dessert services.

The comte de Salvandy received his dinner service on 28 October 1842, and was valued at 6,316 livres, or over \$40,000 today. In 1986, 60 plates were sold from the service and over the following years smaller groups and single pieces came onto the market. David Roche purchased his examples at auction in 2011, and displayed them in the red hallway in Fermoy House.

The plates depict fire heath and wax heath (*Erica cerinthoides*, *Erica ventricosa*); snake's head fritillary and soldier boys (*Fritillaria meleagris*, *Lachenalia pendula*); phlox spp.; cup-and-saucer vine (*Cobæa scandens*); anemone and sweet pea (*Anemone coronaria*, *Lathyrus odoratus*); geranium and meadow cranesbill (*Pelargonium ardens*, *Plenum violaceum*). The artists were Pierre Huard, Pierre Jean Victor Amable Langle, Madame Charles (née Huard), and Joséphine des Isnards.



## TREASURES ON TOUR



# Bittersweet: Chocolate, Tea, Coffee

## Hamilton Gallery

David Roche Gallery is proud to lend fine eighteenth century porcelain made at the Meissen and Sèvres manufactories, an important zoological tea and coffee service attributed to Marc Schoelcher's Paris manufactory, and John Russell's oil portrait of Ensign and Lieutenant (later General Sir) James Duff to Hamilton Gallery, Victoria, for their intriguing new exhibition *Bittersweet: Chocolate, Tea, Coffee*.

Curated in collaboration with the University of Melbourne lecturer, Dr. Matthew J. Martin, *Bittersweet* traces the global journey of these beloved beverages, uncovering the rich and complex histories that saw these ingredients transform from exotic commodities to everyday indulgences. The exhibition also highlights the cultural significance of these beverages over the centuries, and their darker histories tied to colonialism, slavery, and environmental impact. Featuring

intricate tea sets, ornate silverware, unique vessels, paintings and prints, the exhibition sparks an enduring question: how much did, and does, a cup of coffee, tea, or chocolate really cost?

*Bittersweet* is on display at Hamilton Gallery, Victoria until 4 May 2025. A publication to complement the exhibition themes is in development.

MORE DETAILS



# DRG Become a Member

DRG Members enable us to maintain David Roche's exquisite collection, present world-class exhibitions, program lectures with expert guest speakers and to fulfil our 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



Enhance your experience of *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan* and take home an exhibition catalogue. This 144-page, richly illustrated volume is a must-have for lovers of flowers and painting alike!

**\$45 - [BUY NOW](#)**



This handy personal mirror is the perfect size for a clutch purse or a pocket! The durable cover features a detail from an early 19th century *Plaque (still life of flowers)*, attributed to Derby Porcelain Factory.

**\$20 - [BUY NOW](#)**

SHOP ONLINE TODAY

## HIGHLIGHTS AT OTHER HOUSE MUSEUM

### THE CEDARS

**Birds of The Cedars painting course  
Wednesday 2, 9, 16, 23 April**

Join local artist Zinia King in the breathtaking surroundings of The Cedars for a relaxing and inspiring painting experience. Over the course of 4 weeks you will learn new techniques as you paint the beautiful birds that

### CARRICK HILL

**Morris & Co: an Adelaide obsession  
Opens Wednesday 26 March**

This exhibition celebrates the artistry, skill, and enthusiasm of the women of the Barr Smith family by exploring the intimate nature of Morris & Co in the home. Rarely seen objects from the Carrick Hill archive, the Art Gallery of

call The Cedars home. A new technique is demonstrated each week so you can develop fantastic new skills and confidence in painting birds.

South Australia and private collections are displayed to demonstrate Adelaide's deep admiration for the Art & Crafts movement and its enduring legacy.

MORE INFORMATION

MORE INFORMATION



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. **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. **Lecture:** Ellis Rowan, *Desert quandong (Santalum acuminatum)* 1906–07, watercolour and gouache on toned wove paper. Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia. **Tea & Tour:** Ellis Rowan (designer); Royal Worcester Porcelain Factory (manufacturer); Ernest Phillips (decorator), *Cup and saucer, Waratah* 1916, hard-paste porcelain, polychrome enamel, glazing, acid etching, gilt. Private collection, Adelaide. **Workshop:** A Maria Ppiros Native Botanicals workshop, 2024. Image supplied. **Canine Tidbit:** David Roche with Ch. Wulfreda Rhapsody (Imp.), late 1950s. The Right Honourable Earl of Northesk titled Wulfreda Rhapsody Best Bitch and Best Exhibit at the The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria's Championship show, September 1959. **Today's Treasure:** Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory (manufacturer), Pierre Jean Victor Amable Langle and Pierre Huard (painters), *Six botanical plates (Salvandy service)* 1838–40, hard-paste porcelain, hand-painted, gilt. The David Roche Collection. **Treasures on Tour:** Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory (manufacturer), Michel-Barnabe Chauvaux (gilder), *Cup and saucer (Gobelet Calabre et soucoupe)* 1762, soft-paste porcelain, hand-painted, gilt. The David Roche Collection, photo supplied. Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory (manufacturer), Jean-Jacques Pierre le Jeune (painter), *Tea service (déjeuner Hébert)* 1774, soft-paste porcelain, hand-painted, gilt. The David Roche Collection, photo supplied. **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. **Highlights footer:** William Morris (designer), Morris & Co. (manufacturer) *Curtains: Peacock and Dragon* designed 1878, wool twill. Carrick Hill Trust: Hayward Bequest.



David Roche Gallery continues the work of The David Roche Foundation, established in 1999 by 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 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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