



# Club Fermoy

Issue 65

Dear friends and supporters,

As mid-winter approaches, Fermoy House at DRG remains a warm and inviting space in which to enjoy a tour of David's remarkable collection of art and antiques. From royal portraits to canine favourites, there is an abundance of stories exploring significant people and places through to David's vision for presenting his collection. With so much to see, it's not surprising that people return again and again.

Now showing in the exhibition wing is *Dancer*, a National Portrait Gallery touring exhibition and the only opportunity to see this significant photographic body of work in South Australia. Explore the origins of ballet in Australia through to the Sydney Dance Company, Bangarra Dance Theatre and individual luminaries of the twentieth century and their lives and love of dance. There is also plenty to smile and laugh about as contemporary photographers capture young and old alike dancing from many different cultural backgrounds. Young aspiring dancers under 12 are free if you're looking for school holiday activities. We even have a free *Dancer* booklet for them at the front desk.

Read on to learn more about our collections and check your diaries to book tickets for Emma Kindred's talk with artist and designer Jacob Nash, plus later in July, Queensland photographer Pippa Samaya will join us for a special 'tea & tour' to discuss her practice and recent work in *Dancer*.

Finally, a big 'thank you' to those who gave generously toward the Waistcoat conversation appeal or to our ongoing programme of exhibitions and events. And

don't worry, our Waistcoat appeal continues for those that like to donate late, or early, depending on how you look at it.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason  
Director, David Roche Gallery

DONATE TODAY

## EXHIBITION



# DANCER

**Tues - Sat | 10am-4pm**

From letting loose in the loungeroom to entralling audiences on stage, this National Portrait Gallery exhibition celebrates dance and dancers. Capturing the beauty of movement, self-expression and connection, the works on display in *Dancer* were collaboratively curated and choreographed by the National Portrait Gallery together with a group of local dancers.

The exhibition features 52 works from the National Portrait Gallery's collection of dance legends, including Irina Baronova, Robert Helpmann, Hélène Kirsova, Graeme Murphy, Gideon Obarzanek, Anna Pavlova, Marilyn Rowe and Janet Vernon.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

*Dancer* is a National Portrait Gallery touring exhibition, supported by the National

## UPCOMING EVENT



# Tea & Tour

with Australian  
photographer and  
film maker, *Pippa  
Samaya*

**Friday 25 July 10:30am–12:00pm**

Enjoy tea and coffee in the Roman Room from 10:30am, before hearing from photographer Pippa Samaya and viewing the artist's work on display in the *Dancer* exhibition.

“Dance provided me a visual language for all those complex, inner emotional states of being human. It enabled me to express things that words can't and allows a level of empathy that's otherwise difficult to find.” Pippa Samaya

This illustrated talk will dive into Pippa's personal journey in the niche world of dance photography.



### About the Speaker

Awards include two-time winner of the International 60 Second Dance

Pippa Samaya is an award-winning photographer and film-maker with two overlapping specialisations of practice: dance/movement, and humanitarian documentary. Pippa has worked extensively with the dance and portrait industry in Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Pippa's humanitarian documentary work evolved from several years traveling with NGO One Voice to remote villages in India and Nicaragua, and a Syrian Refugee camp in Greece, documenting human experience and connection through co-creation.

Film Competition (Denmark/Finland), Two time winner of an Australian Dance Award for Excellence in Dance on Film, double win at the SALON exhibit at CCP (AU), Best Film at FAD Film Festival (US), and many more.

**Our Tea & Tour is among our most popular events, so book your ticket now to avoid missing out.**

DETAILS AND TICKETS

## UPCOMING EVENT



# Dancer in conversation

with National Portrait Gallery curator *Dr Emma Kindred* and artist *Jacob Nash*

**Thursday 17 July 6pm–7:15pm**

Join us for an inspiring in-conversation event with National Portrait Gallery curator Dr Emma Kindred and Daly River artist and designer Jacob Nash.

Internationally celebrated for his work, Nash brings deep insight into storytelling through photography and design.



**Ticket includes one beverage on arrival.**

DETAILS AND TICKETS



### About the Speakers

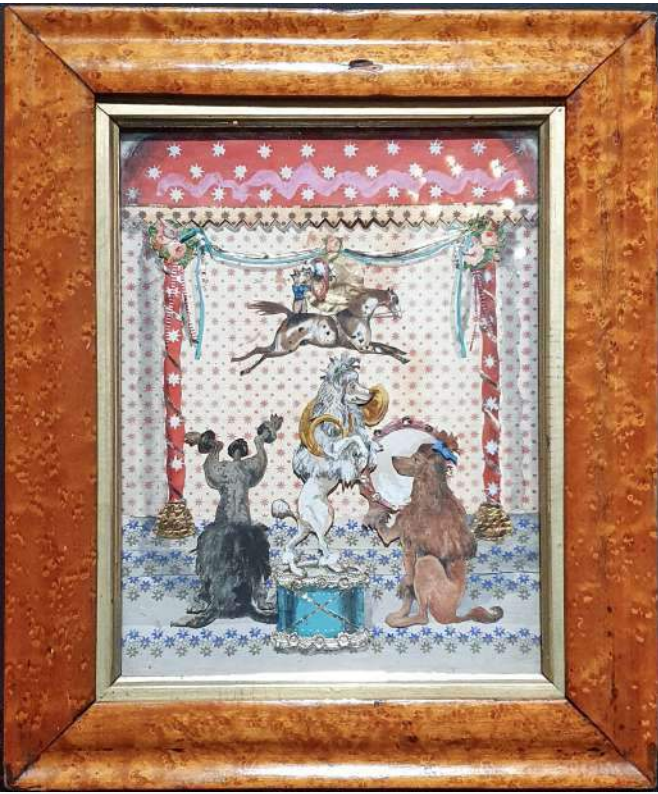
Dr Emma Kindred is a curator, art historian and writer. She is Curator at the National Portrait Gallery and Honorary Research Associate at the National Gallery of Australia. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow in Art History at University of Sydney, and has previously held curatorial positions at the National Gallery of Australia and Australian War Memorial. Major curatorial projects include Joan Ross: Those trees came back to me in my dreams (NPG 2024-25) and Belonging: stories of Australian art (NGA 2019-20).

Jacob Nash is a First Nations Australian artist and designer whose ancestral land on his mother's side is in the Daly River. Growing up on Quandamooka Country, Jacob has spent the last two decades living and working across the Eora Nation (Sydney). His multidisciplinary practice spans Theatre, Film, TV, Fine Art, and Public Art, combining these diverse experiences to create iconic imagery and storytelling that reflect the stories, people, and Country from a distinct First Nations perspective.

CANINE TIDBIT

## Performing Poodles

Theo Townshend



Though you won't see any dancing dogs in the *Dancer* exhibition, a charming collage in the David Roche Collection depicts three prancing poodles!

The Performing Poodles montage was created by Theodosia (Theo) Townshend, an Irish-born artist who is best known for her mixed-media collages. Born on 17 July 1893 in Kilmallock, Townshend studied at the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art before moving to London for further instruction at the Slade School. There she met Neville Lewis, a South African student who had previously studied under Stanhope Forbes at Newlyn, and whose father would later become the Lord Mayor of Cape Town.

In 1915, Townshend and Lewis displayed at the New English Art Club's 54th Exhibition of Modern Pictures, and were married the following year in Devonport, Devon. However, their marriage wasn't to last and by 1922 they separated. Townshend's artistic legacy rests in her modestly proportioned collages, several of which feature hand-painted cuttings of dogs. Performing Poodles is a particularly exuberant example, with one poodle performing a hand (paw) stand; another playing the drum with its feet as it blows a horn, and a third beating a tambourine. In the background, a trick dog jumps through a hoop for an acrobat astride a galloping horse.

This charming canine montage was gifted by David Roche to long-serving kennel hand June Ashton, who presented it to the David Roche Collection in 2021.

TODAY'S TREASURE



# Sleeping piglet

Exon Wemyss Ware  
(Britain 1988–2016)  
Brian Adams (1945–  
2016)

## Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in the David Roche Collection

Have you ever noticed the sleeping piglet on the bottom shelf of the Staffordshire ware collection display in the Den of Fermoy House? The intruder is decorated with a central large freeform deep pink cabbage rose, a second paler version towards the tail, and a bud stem on the back of the head. The piglet was made by Brian Adams and is a revised version of the ‘Wemyss Ware’ sleeping pig figurines first made at the Fife Pottery operated by Robert Heron & Sons.

The ‘original’ Wemyss Ware began production around 1882 when Bohemian decorator Karel Nekola arrived at Heron’s Fife Pottery. Pieces, shaped as pigs or cats, sometimes sporting hats or fast asleep, were hand-decorated with colourful plant motifs, including cabbage roses. To gain full employment at Wemyss, any aspiring decorator had to demonstrate the ability to master the signature rose in full bloom. The Fife pottery closed in 1930 during the depression, and the rights to Wemyss Ware were bought by the Bovey Pottery in Devon. Karel Nekola’s son, Joseph, also a decorator, joined the production team in Devon, which operated until 1957. These quirky early wares charmed and were coveted, with the Queen Mother an avid collector.

Born in Reading, England, in 1945, Brian Adams moved into pottery and ceramic restoration in the 1980s. He was particularly skilled in traditional production and firing methods as well as matching underglaze decoration. In 1987, Brian worked alongside Esther Weeks, a former Wemyss Ware decorator trained by Joseph Nekola, to create a group of nineteen ‘new’ Wemyss works for exhibition, and in 1988 began producing ‘Exon Wemyss Ware’ at the Exon Art Pottery, which he had founded in Ashdown, Devon. Around 2,700 pieces of Exon Wemyss were produced between 1988 and 2005.

Judy L

BOOK YOUR HOUSE TOUR





## Boxes and bonbonieres

As the chill of winter settles over Adelaide, we're reminded of David Roche's long-standing tradition of travelling to the United Kingdom and Europe during May, June or July. This time of year was terrific for antique fossicking, when the major Grosvenor House and Olympia art and antique fairs were held in London. As Martyn Cook remembered: A London hotel room would be booked as a base during May and June to attend the Chelsea Flower Show, Ascot races, and the antiques fairs at Grosvenor House, Olympia, and Chelsea, and the auction houses - Christie's, Sotheby's and Bonhams, just to name a few.

During one such trip in 2005, David acquired a variety of charming small boxes and bonbonieres, including: a 19th century gold box mounted with a micro-mosaic depicting the Colosseum, a porcelain box by Spode in the shape of a butterfly, a patch box made from Blue John, and a Bilston enamel box in the shape of a hare.

Most interesting, however, is a box fashioned from string and cord which David purchased while visiting Sheffield. Decorated with a hand-tinted engraving depicting an unusual scene of a shepherd tailing a lamb, this one-of-a-kind object can now be seen in the Kitchen of Fermoy House.





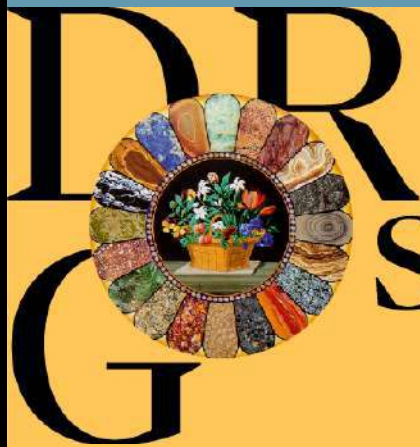


# Become a Member

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



# Shop Online



Give the gift of art, history and inspiration with a DRG Gift Card. Whether it's a house tour, exhibition tickets or a special find from the Gallery Shop, it's a thoughtful way to treat someone special to a memorable experience!

**\$20 - \$100**

[View](#)



Stay dry this winter season with the David Roche Gallery Umbrella range. Stand out from the crowd with three different unique designs to choose from. Its large cover will keep you out of the rain all winter long.

**\$35**

[View](#)

[SHOP ONLINE TODAY](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS AT OTHER HOUSE MUSEUMS

### THE CEDARS

A guided tour of The Cedars is a wonderful way to explore the home and art studios of renowned Australian artist Hans Heysen and family. Learn the stories behind the art of Hans and daughter Nora Heysen, their family and lives at The Cedars and the extraordinary legacy and influence they had on art, culture and the environment. Our knowledgeable and passionate guides bring the Heysen stories to life providing visitors with an understanding and love for this very special place. As a special add-on to

### CARRICK HILL

#### **The Carrick Hill Antiques Roadshow August 22 2025 | \$30**

There will be plenty of big reveals about the value of antiques from our stellar cast of curators - Timothy Roberts (curator at David Roche Gallery), James Bruce (from Australia's oldest family run auction house) and Dr Ellen Whitton (curator of the Carrick Hill collection) with MC Richard Heathcote (Former Director Carrick Hill). Each expert will present three pieces to the audience - but beware as they attempt to lead you up the antique dealers path to throw

your tour, indulge in a charming Devonshire tea, served in beautiful vintage china as you overlook the serene gardens.



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

you off the scent of the real value of the best pieces...then it's up to you to test your knowledge and choose which is Good, Better and Best.



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## YOUR GIFT HELPS US DO MORE



Your donation will help David Roche Gallery reach its full potential to acquire works of art and present innovative exhibitions that will add to the cultural life of South Australia. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

No matter how large or small, your gift will help us do more.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

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:** Beau Dean Riley Smith, Wiradjuri and Gamilaraay nations, *Bennelong 2017*, from the series 'Space in between' by Jacob Nash. National Portrait Gallery. **Upcoming Event Tea & Tour:** Pippa Samaya, *The Knowledge Between Us* – James Vu Anh Pham and Tara Jade Samaya 2017. **Canine Tidbit:** Theo Townshend (1893–1980) *Performing Poodles* 1920–40. The David Roche Collection. Gift of June Ashton 2021. **Today's Treasure:** *Exon Wemyss Ware, Sleeping piglet 1988–2005 and Wemyss Ware Pig 1882–1930. The David Roche Collection.* **From the Archives:** David Roche with Lanto Synge and Thomas Woodham Smith of Mallett Antiques, and Martyn Cook at the 'Olympia' Art and Antiques Fair, London, 2005. **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. **Giving:** Hubley Manufacturing Company (manufacturer), Daniel Cooke (inventor) 'Trick Dog' mechanical money box, designed 1888. The David Roche Collection



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 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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