



Club Fermoy

Issue 70

Dear friends and supporters,

Art Deco: A Modern Vision has received rave reviews since opening with its mix of European glamour and striking objects made here in Australia. Enjoy a visit before Christmas or take the time for some slow looking in January as part of your summer holidays. *Art Deco* is exclusive to Adelaide and the only 100th anniversary show in Australia.

Read on to find out more about our Art Deco events and the superb new acquisition of Mortimer Menpes' *A Dutch Fisherman*, which is now displayed in Fermoy House. This summer DRG is busy with our redevelopment which is in full swing transforming the central courtyard, heritage maisonette, and rear of the gallery to allow us to offer more in 2026.

Remember your Christmas purchases from our shop directly help support DRG. Many items are made exclusively for the Gallery, and our membership option keeps on giving. May I also take this early opportunity to wish you all a safe, happy and compassionate festive season.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Director, David Roche Gallery

EXHIBITION



Art Deco: A Modern Vision until 31 January 2026

Celebrate 100 years of Art Deco with David Roche Gallery's new exhibition: *Art Deco: A Modern Vision*. Step back in time to the 1920s and 30s and discover exquisite fashion, glass, sculpture, ceramics, paintings, and much more. Featuring over 180 works from public and private collections, this exhibition invites guests to explore the timeless legacy of Art Deco.

Guided Exhibition Tours

Join one of our volunteer-led guided tours of the exhibition at 11:30am on the following Thursdays: 4 Dec; 18 Dec; 8 Jan; 15 Jan; 22 Jan; 29 Jan. To book, please select the 11:30am Guided Tour timeslot on the date of your choice.

Curator Timothy Roberts says Art Deco is more than just sleek lines and geometric design, it was a design movement that transformed the world. "It truly encompassed all decorative and applied arts from architecture, interior design, transportation, fashion and jewellery. We look forward to sharing this visual journey and offer art enthusiasts an insight into this world."

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am–4pm. Plan your visit today.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

UPCOMING EVENT TOMORROW



Twilight Evening

at David Roche Gallery

Thursday 4 December, 5:00pm

This Thursday we are opening late just for you! From 5:00–7:30pm, join us for a special twilight viewing of *Art Deco: A Modern Vision*. At 5:45pm discover the fashionable story of cosmetic compacts in a lightning talk by Di Kempster from the Art Deco & Modernism Society of Australia (SA chapter), and enjoy the festive voices of High Spirits Harmony singing Christmas carols from 6:00pm.

Whether you are unable to visit the gallery 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 the start of summer together at DRG!

DETAILS AND TICKETS

UPCOMING EVENT

Curator's Tea & Tour of Art Deco

with Timothy Roberts



23 January 2026 - Hurry only a few tickets left!

Enjoy tea and coffee in the Roman Room from 10:30am then embark on a tour of *Art Deco: A Modern Vision* led by exhibition curator Timothy Roberts. Learn about the fascinating origins of Art Deco and how this distinctive style became a part of everyday Australian life.

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

DETAILS AND TICKETS

NEW TO THE COLLECTION



A Dutch Fisherman, Holland

Painted by
Mortimer Menpes

David Roche Gallery is grateful to Caroline Webber for her generous donation of *A Dutch Fisherman, Holland*, painted by renowned South Australian artist Mortimer Menpes.

Menpes was born in Port Adelaide in 1855, the second son of property developer James Menpes and his wife Ann. After initial studies at the Adelaide School of Art, Mortimer migrated to England with his family in 1875 and took up further studies at the School of Art in London. A few years later, Menpes met American artist James McNeill Whistler; their subsequent friendship had a profound influence on Menpes' approach to composition and the development of his artistic vision. Menpes's inveterate travelling led him to places as far afield as Myanmar and Mexico. His 1900 visit to the Dutch community of Volendam provided him with everything to create this

detailed portrayal of a man dressed in the traditional garments worn by fishermen of the region. Menpes considered this work so highly that he selected it to illustrate the colour frontispiece for the second English edition of *World Pictures: A Record in Colour*, published in 1903.

This striking work by a significant British-Australian artist is currently on display in the Chinoiserie Bedroom of Fermoy House. David Roche Gallery acknowledge the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program's support of this gift.

Christmas Closure Update

The Gallery will be closed from 21 December to 5 January. Our team wishes you a safe, happy and compassionate festive season. Be sure to follow DRG on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with everything the new year brings.



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 Gallery shop (excluding the 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

DRG Shop Online



Perfect Christmas Gifts!

Explore our unique range of stationery and accessories—pens, scarves, mugs, keyrings and more. Thoughtful little gifts your loved ones will adore this Christmas.



Gift Card

Give the gift of a memorable experience with a DRG Gift Card, redeemable for house tours, exhibition tickets, and Gallery Shop treasures. Available from \$20 to \$100.

SHOP ONLINE TODAY

Please note the Gallery Shop is closed 21 December 2025 to 5 January 2026. Online orders placed after Thursday 18 December will not be processed until Monday 5 January 2026.

HIGHLIGHTS AT OTHER HOUSE MUSEUMS

THE CEDARS

CARRICK HILL

The Cedars - Heysen house Guided Tour | \$22

In the heart of Adelaide Hills is the beautiful, historic home and property of renowned Australian artists, the Heysen family. A visit to The Cedars is an unforgettable look at an Australian cultural treasure and one of the world's few fully preserved historic artists' homes and studios containing the original working and living spaces of both Hans and Nora Heysen and their family.



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Summer Sunset Sessions Ticketed Event | \$15

This summer, Carrick Hill invites you to experience the very best of Carrick Hill with Sunset Sessions. The first Sunset Session kicks off on Boxing Day, 26 December 2025, the perfect way to wind down your festivities. Sip a drink on the garden terrace or relax on the lawns while enjoying the stunning twilight views and DJ vibes. Grab casual food and drinks at the Garden Bar, or book a table at Rozelle's for the full à la carte experience. Each Sunset Session runs from 5pm to 9pm, with tickets strictly limited.



[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:** Sam Roberts, *Art Deco: A Modern Vision* Opening Night 2025. **Tea, Talk & Tour:** Bakewell Brothers, 'Pontiac' tea set, c.1940, glazed earthenware. Private collection. **New to the Collection:** Mortimer Luddington Menpes (Australia/Britain 1855–1938), *A Dutch Fisherman, Holland*, c.1900, oil on board. Gift of Caroline Anne Webber through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2025. **Museums:** Heysen, The Cedars, House Tour Website. **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 eme



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