



Club Fermoy

Issue 71

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to our first edition of Club Fermoy for 2026 and we have an exciting year planned for DRG. *Art Deco: A modern vision* closed at the end of January with record numbers, and we thank all our lenders to the exhibition and visitors who made this centenary exhibition so special.

As we start February, DRG has begun some important internal redevelopment work, which will see a much-improved reception and shop experience as well as upgrades to the Roman room. We look forward to sharing these refreshed spaces with you from Tuesday, 17 February and apologise for having to briefly close to make this work possible. We reopen with *Fantastic Forms*, a touring exhibition from Bundanon that showcases the ceramics and drawings of Merric Boyd. From Australia's most recognised artistic dynasty, Boyd's work is displayed alongside contemporary artists Rubyrose Bancroft, Stephen Benwell and Nabilah Nordin.

Further external building work will continue at DRG as we move toward celebrating our tenth anniversary in June and as we get closer, I look forward to sharing more details about the events and exhibition organised to mark this significant milestone. Please read on to learn more about some of our recent acquisitions, our events during Fringe, and the announcement of Dr Katica Pedisic and Peta Kruger as the recipients of the 2026 SIDA Foundation, Adelaide University, DRG Research Fellowship in Interior Design and Architecture. Congratulations to Katica and Peta.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Director, David Roche Gallery

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Fantastic Forms

17 Feb – 9 May

Merric Boyd with
Rubyrose Bancroft
Stephen Benwell
Nabilah Nordin

Introducing *Fantastic Forms*, exclusively on display in South Australia at David Roche Gallery. Capturing the energy, movement and colour in the expansive creative practice of Merric Boyd (1888-1959). Featuring over 200 drawings and ceramics from the Bundanon Collection, this exhibition celebrates the endless creativity of the human imagination.

BUNDANON
A Bundanon touring exhibition



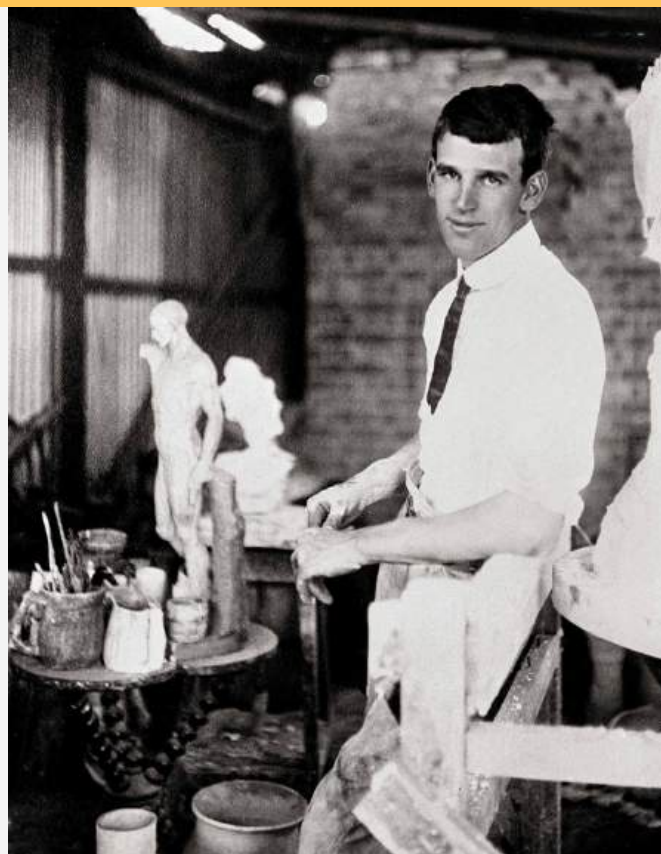
Australian Government
National Collecting Institutions
Touring & Outreach Program

17 February – 9 May 2026

'The first impulse of the maker of hand pottery is to obtain pleasure in making and decorating an article, and making that pleasure intelligible to others...' Merric Boyd, 1930.

Merric Boyd, considered Australia's first studio potter, began working with clay in 1910 when the medium was not widely used. Alongside pottery, drawing formed the backbone of his practice from an early age. Discover *Fantastic Forms* and gain insight into Boyd's creative philosophy and how it shaped his art.

DETAILS AND TICKETS



EVENT



Tea & Tour of Fantastic Forms

with Sophie O'Brien
Head of Curatorial and
Learning, Bundanon,
and co-curator of the
exhibition.

Friday 20 February

Enjoy tea and coffee in the Roman Room from 10:30am, then embark on a tour of *Fantastic Forms* led by Sophie O'Brien, Head of Curatorial and Learning, Bundanon. Tea & Tour is among our most popular events, so book your ticket today to avoid disappointment.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

EVENT

Quartets in the Age of Enlightenment



Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 February

Adelaide Baroque Quartet are coming to David Roche Gallery for two special evenings on the 25th and 26th of February. The early 1700's saw a new period in the arts, a time of great change and transformation with incredible advances in composition and performance. The Age of Reason, termed The Age of Enlightenment, promoted ideas such as liberty, progress, and democracy. The program brings that spirit to life through works by Mozart, Haydn, and Mendelssohn.

Following the success of last year's sold-out performances, this is not to be missed. The bar will be open on the night, offering a selection of quality wines from our wine sponsor of the year, Simon Tolley Wines, available for purchase.



DRG is proud to be part of the 2026 Fringe Festival.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

PROJECTS 2026



The SIDA Foundation

University of Adelaide, SIDA Foundation & DRG Research Fellowship

Katica Pedisic and Peta Kruger

Adelaide University along with The SIDA (Society of Interior Designers of Australia) Foundation and David Roche Gallery are delighted to announce Dr Katica Pedisic from Adelaide University and South Australian artist Peta Kruger as the recipients of the 2026 Research Fellowship.

The fellowship, valued at \$28,000, offers a unique opportunity for a practitioner or academic to explore new fields of knowledge across the allied professions of interior design, architecture and furniture and product design.

Pedisic and Kruger's project, *All that glistens*, will enable mutual practice interests: geometry, pattern, repetition, colour-shifts, folding and weaving to come together through exploration of David Roche Gallery's collection to produce a

suite of creative work. The focus will be on one item of each of the seven rooms, selected for its artisanal skill and embodiment of design craft and knowledges across the collection. This fellowship offers the recipients a chance to collaborate for the first time, bringing their separate creative practices into dialogue.

LEARN MORE

DRG MASTERPLAN STAGE 1: Major Improvements and Upgrades

A reminder that DRG is closed for renovations from 2–16 February 2026.

DRG is undergoing a redevelopment plan, in collaboration with South Australian businesses Aube Projects and WBL architects, with stage 1 already well underway. These upgrades include an enhanced welcome and retail offering, a new café situated in the central courtyard, and operational upgrades, which together create an enhanced visitor experience. Stay tuned to our newsletter and social media for updates on the exciting changes coming soon.



NEW TO THE COLLECTION



David Roche Gallery thanks Alexandra M. Roche Hamilton and Airlie V. Roche Hamilton for the donation of portraits of David Roche's parents, Jack and Dorinda by South Australian artist Thomas Percy Reginald 'Rex' Wood. Rex Wood was born in Laura, South Australia, the eldest of four boys born to Rev. Tom Percy Wood, rector at St. John's Church of England, and Fannie née Newbury. Rex and his brother Noel studied at the South Australian School of Art, and both became recognised artists.

Rex Wood's portraits of Jack and Dorinda Roche were painted together with portraits of their children, including the portrait of David Roche displayed at David Roche Gallery. These works are mounted in their original frames, which were crafted in Sydney. These significant portraits join the collection alongside two books that David Roche kept during his years at Geelong Grammar School.



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



Valentine's Gifts!

Spoil your loved ones with our unique range of stationery and accessories—lens cloths, mugs, pens, scarves, keyrings and more.



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

HIGHLIGHTS AT OTHER HOUSE MUSEUMS



THE CEDARS

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 the family.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



CARRICK HILL

Summer Sunset Sessions Ticketed Event | \$15

Carrick Hill invites you to savour the final Summer Sunset Sessions of the season. On Friday 27 March, from 5pm to 9pm, unwind as twilight settles over the gardens. Enjoy a drink on the terrace or stretch out on the lawns, with DJ tunes setting the mood. It's the perfect way to ease into the weekend. Tickets are limited, so book early.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

YOUR GIFT HELPS US DO MORE

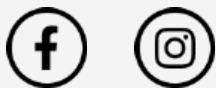
Your donation will help David Roche Gallery reach its full potential to acquire works of art and present innovative exhibitions that will add to the cultural life of South Australia. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



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:** Merric Boyd, *Trees*, 1950, pencil, coloured pencil and watercolour on paper. Bundanon Collection. Photo: Rob Little. Merric Boyd at Open Country pottery, Murrumbidgee, c. 1914, Bundanon Archives. **Tea, Talk & Tour:** Merric Boyd, *Jug with connected saucer* date unknown, ceramic, buff earthenware, wheel-thrown, hand carved and modelled, coloured underglaze, clear glaze. Bundanon Collection. Photo: June Andersen. **New to Collection:** Rex Wood, *Dorinda Roche* and *Jack Roche*, c. 1946, oil on canvas. The David Roche Collection. Gift of Alexandra M. Roche Hamilton and Airlie V. Roche Hamilton 2025. **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,
SOUTH 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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