



Club Fermoy

Issue 74

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to the autumn edition of Club Fermoy and the final days of *Fantastic Forms* which closes Saturday 9 May. This is your last opportunity to experience the ceramics and drawings of Merric Boyd and the work of Stephen Benwell, Nabilah Nordin and Rubyrose Bancroft. Throughout May, you can continue to enjoy Fermoy House, a cosy retreat in which to enjoy an incredible collection and interior with our expert guides Tuesday to Saturday.

As DRG's 10th celebration is fast approaching on 3 June we're thrilled to share *Making Old New: DRG 10th Anniversary. SA Craft & Design reimagine the Collection* opening 23 May. Developed in collaboration with JamFactory, this free exhibition features new work by twenty artists in response to twenty works from the DRG collection. Presenting ceramics, glass, furniture, jewellery, and sculpture by some of SA's most loved artists as well as exciting up and coming talent, the exhibition also draws upon the rich holdings of David Roche's collection to illustrate how the past can inform the future.

Please continue reading to learn more about the Gallery's redevelopment, David's superb French *Secrétaire à abattant*, and in the Canine tidbit, one of Pautrot's bronze sculptures of a *Setter with game* is examined. As we near the end of the financial year, I also ask that you consider a donation to DRG. Big or small, your generosity helps us grow and care for the collection, present exhibitions, and continue our acclaimed lecture program.

Best wishes,

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

makingoldnew DRG 10th Anniversary SA Craft & Design reimagine the collection



23 May–1 August 2026

FREE exhibition

We are proud to bring together works from DRG's 18th to early 20th-century European and British collection alongside contemporary responses by 20 South Australian artists associated with the JamFactory. Each artist has selected a piece from the collection as inspiration to create something entirely new.

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CAPTIAL REDEVELOPMENT

Stage 1 Redevelopment – Cafe, courtyard garden, storage

Exciting progress is underway in our redevelopment. Foundations for the new courtyard and café have now been laid, with landscaping soon to follow. Behind the scenes, works are continuing across key areas including the loading dock, storage, and workshop spaces with walls and roof installed, all designed to enhance both visitor experience and gallery operations.

We're proud to be working alongside South Australian businesses, Design

by WBL and AubeProjects to help bring our vision to life.

“What excites us about this stage of the gallery’s development is how it brings together and expands on the initial remit of the Foundation to make a visit to the gallery a more fulsome and enveloping experience. The opportunity to expand on the impact and association of the original collection to allow better accommodation of travelling exhibitions is an exciting vision to be part of.” –**David Burton, Director Design by WBL.**



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“Each component of this plan really adds to DRG. The opportunity to create enhanced visitor experiences and significant operational improvements is rare these days. It reflects the maturity of DRG and its growing position in the cultural landscape of South Australia of which I’m proud.” –**Robert Reason, Director David Roche Gallery.**

SUPPORT THE GALLERY

A donation to David Roche Gallery is a gift to South Australia.

David Roche’s bequest of his North Adelaide home and exceptional art collection has left a remarkable legacy to South Australia. Your support through memberships, donations, gifts and bequests will continue David Roche Gallery’s development as a centre of excellence and leader in decorative arts in Australia. This tax time, please think of David Roche Gallery. Your support will help us do more.



TODAY'S TREASURE

*Secrétaire à abattant*

Attributed to Nicolas-Jean Marchand (France 1697 - after 1770)

The sheer elegance of the French-themed drawing room in Fermoy House never fails to enchant. One of the most refined pieces of furniture in this room combines both *Chinoiserie* and Neoclassical styles, can be found standing quietly next to the fireplace. It is a *Secrétaire à abattant* attributed to celebrated master cabinetmaker (ébéniste) and clockmaker Nicholas-Jean Marchand.

This traditional French cabinet is a tall, fall-front writing desk in which the writing surface folds down to allow for compact but extensive storage. It features kingwood, lacquer, gilt bronze and a *Brèche d'Alep* marble top. The highlight is the front surface below the frieze, across the writing fall and the panelled doors. It draws the viewer's eye to the lacquer work, designed as one continuous panel, exquisitely featuring exuberantly stylised flowers and birds and surrounded by an unbroken border of tendrils. This exceptional piece transitions into the neoclassical with its plain angular form and small, subdued ormolu (gilt-bronze) mounts.

Marchand worked within the prestigious guild system during the Régence and Louis XV periods. He gained his master status around 1730 and his studio was in the Rue Saint-Nicolas in Paris. He is best known for his curved, elegant designs, frequently featuring intricate kingwood veneers, violetwood and delicate bronze

mounts. His works can be found in museums worldwide including the Musée Carnavalet in Paris and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

This important piece was formerly in a Parisian private collection, and David Roche purchased it from the London dealer Carlton Hobbs in 2003. Inaugural Director of The David Roche Foundation, Martyn Cook, noted in the first edition of this Newsletter:

David thought this secretaire was so incredibly beautiful with its cascading carnations and fronds, and he adored the Chinoiserie style of it. The quality is exceptional and the condition of the lacquer is extraordinarily beautiful. He often filled the cabinet inside with French porcelain or inkstands.

Sandra W.

CANINE TIDBIT



Setter with game

Ferdinand Pautrot (France 1832–1874)

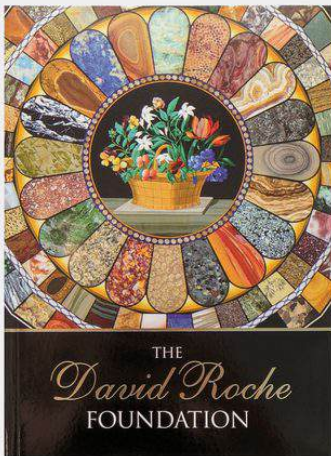
David Roche's love of canine art extended across all media, from paintings to ceramics, sculpture, and jewellery. Visitors to David Roche Gallery are greeted by a life-size Pointer cast at the Val D'Osne Foundry after the original by Henri-Alfred Jacquemart, and many other sculptures of dogs, from life-size to pocket-size, can be seen throughout Fermoy House.

This bronze sculpture of a setter proudly holding the spoils from the hunt is by nineteenth century French sculptor Ferdinand Pautrot. Though little is known of this artist's formative years, he quickly rose to prominence in the 1860s as a leading *animalier* sculptor and exhibited enthusiastically in the *Salons and*

Expositions des Beaux-arts appliqué à l'industrie in Paris. When Pautrot was awarded a bronze medal at the *1865 Expositions des Beaux-arts*, his citation noted among Pautrot's bronzes of animals that 'figures of dogs especially seemed worthy of attention.' *Setter with game* dates from the early 1860s and was produced in five sizes. This 'cabinet-sized' example measures just 22cm in height, and is displayed among other French canine bronzes on the landing in the Roman Room.

A total of nine bronzes by Ferdinand Pautrot are held in the David Roche collection. The largest of these, *Pheasant startled by fighting finches* will be displayed in the Gallery from 23 May in *Making Old New: DRG 10th Anniversary*.

DRG Shop Online



David Roche Gallery Guidebook

Take a walk through the home of David Roche with this Guidebook full of beautiful images and stories about David, his life, his passions and his magnificent collection of antiques and fine art.

GUIDEBOOK



Gift Cards

The Gift Card can be redeemed on house tours of Fermoy House, exhibition tickets, gifts from the Gallery Shop and lots of other exciting things!

GIFT CARDS

DRG



Become a Member

As a valued member, you play an essential role in preserving David Roche's collection, supporting the presentation of world-class exhibitions, and program lectures with expert guest speakers. Your support helps DRG continue to grow as a centre of excellence and a leader in decorative arts in Australia.

In return, members enjoy a range of exclusive benefits, including 25% off Fermoy House tours, 25% off exhibition tickets, 10% off the Gallery Shop, and much more.



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OTHER ART HIGHLIGHTS



THE CEDARS

Botanical Drawing Workshop

Join renowned botanical artist Sandra Johnston for a delightful series of Sunday workshops where she will guide you through creating your own botanical masterpiece inspired by nature. On Sunday 7th of June, Sandra will be hosting her next workshop at The Cedars on the theme 'Gum Blossoms'.

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CARRICK HILL

Morris Mania: In Conversation with Hadrian Garrard & Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM, Adelaide Lord Mayor
16 May 2026 | 3:00–4:30pm



Garrard is in Adelaide for a very limited time and will explore the extraordinary lasting influence of William Morris designs in popular culture. Drawing on exhibitions including *Morris Mania and William Morris and Art from the Islamic World*, he will reflect on how Morris's work has been reinterpreted for contemporary audiences, reaching far beyond gallery spaces and in many ways "going viral".

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ARTSNATIONAL ADELAIDE

Claudia Chan-Shaw | Well Heeled: Shoes Through Time

24 June 2026

Join Claudia Chan Shaw for an intriguing look at our fascination with shoes and the stories behind them - from flats and stilettos, to trainers, Crocs and the catwalk. Just think of Cinderella or the Wizard of Oz - it's all about the shoes in the end.

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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: Louis Moinet, *Prince Ernst August of Hanover's clock* (detail), c.1810, David Roche collection. Michael Carney, *Endurance* (detail), 2026, courtesy of the artist. Donate: Worcester Porcelain Factory (Barr, Flight & Barr), *Pair of circular dishes* (shell decoration) 1805-10. The David Roche Collection. Gift of Dr Leslie Stephan, 2024. Canine Tidbit: Ferdinand Pautrot (France 1832-1874), *Setter with game*, c.1860, bronze. The David Roche collection. 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.



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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