DAVID ROCHE GALLERY

Club Fermoy

Issue 80

Dear friends and supporters,

As the weather warms and we move toward summer we are excited to bring you *Inside Pompeii: Origins of a European way of life. Photographs by Luigi Spina.* Presented by the European Union this exhibition of large-format photographs immerses you in the saturated colours of Pompeii's magnificent wall frescos and mosaics. Items from DRG's own collection have been judiciously added to illustrate the international impact that Pompeii had from the mid-18th to early 19th century through the Grand Tour and art that celebrated antiquity, commonly referred to as neoclassic.

While our November talks on Pompeii have sold-out, I do encourage you to take advantage of our Twilight Evening on Thursday 3 December. Enjoy the exhibition, Christmas carols, and our new courtyard café will be staying open to serve food and drink throughout the evening.

Please read on to learn about an Australian convict artist represented in the DRG collection and find out why a magnificent pair of candelabra have been included in *Inside Pompeii.* Thinking about Christmas gifts, so are we, stay tuned to find out more from our shop.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason,
Director, David Roche Gallery

EXHIBITION: COMING SOON

Inside Pompeii: Origins of a European Way of Life

Photographs by Luigi Spina

Opening 7 November, *Inside Pompeii* invites us to walk the storied streets, hear the echoes of people's lives, and marvel at the intricate frescoes that capture both the grandeur and intimacy of an ancient European way of living.

A touring exhibition by
The European Union

LEARN MORE

EVENTS

Twilight Evening

Join us Thursday 3 December for our Twilight Evening, when we open late just for you! Experience *Inside Pompeii:*

Origins of a European Way of Life in a relaxed evening setting accompanied with cheerful carols, and delicious food and drinks at the David Roche Café.

LEARN MORE

TODAY'S TREASURE

Cat with fish
attributed to William Buelow Gould
c. 1851

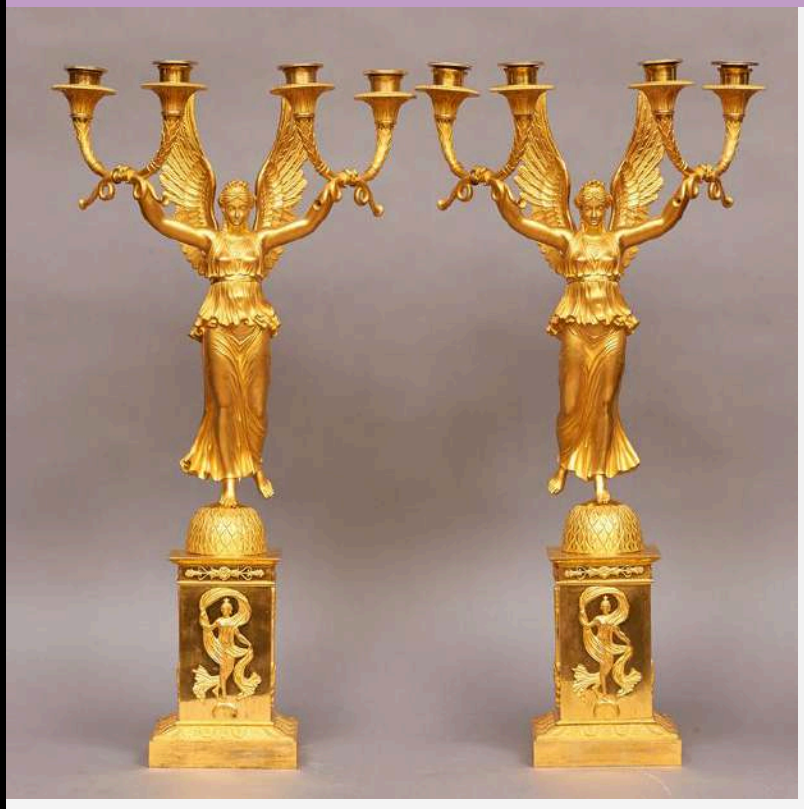
William Buelow Gould was born William Holland in Liverpool in 1803. He is thought to have trained under Irish artist William Mulready in London. Early in his career, Gould

worked as a draftsman for German lithographer Rudolph Ackermann in The Strand, before becoming a porcelain painter at Spode.

In November 1827, Gould was convicted of having '*by force of arms, stolen one coat*' and sentenced to '*seven years beyond the seas*', transported to Van Diemen's Land. In 1829, he received an additional three-year sentence at Macquarie Harbour for forging a banknote. En route, he was marooned following a convict mutiny. Having sought help on land rather than join the uprising, his sentence was subsequently commuted. As a house servant to amateur botanist Dr James Scott in Hobart, Gould was tasked with painting watercolours of native specimens, producing *Sketchbook of Fishes*, now held in the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Hobart. In 2011, the sketchbook received UNESCO Memory of the World recognition.

Sent back to Sarah Island in 1832, Gould remained there until the settlement closed in 1833, receiving his certificate of freedom in 1835. He settled back in Hobart, earning a living through portraits, still lifes and ornamental painting. However, his fortunes fluctuated as he fell into a cycle of alcoholism, poverty and imprisonment. Painted in the final years of his life, DRG's *Cat with fish* is one of several known examples of Gould depicting a cat settling down beside a freshly caught pile of fish. It hangs among the other naïve and whimsical works in David Roche's kitchen.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Pair of Winged Victory Candelabra
Claude-François Rabiat (France, 1756–1815)
c. 1800

A pair of First Empire candelabra from the DRG collection will feature in the upcoming exhibition *Inside Pompeii: Origins of a European Way of Life*, alongside selected

collection objects exploring the influence of the ancient world on European decorative and fine arts.

The excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum fuelled a renewed fascination with classical antiquity, inspiring the Neoclassical and Empire styles. This enthusiasm for Graeco-Roman forms and ornament is reflected in these magnificent candelabra.

Claude-François Rabiat was apprenticed to Étienne Vignerelle in 1769 and promoted to ‘Master Metal Gilder’ in 1778. Based in Paris, he established a thriving business, regularly supplying clocks and candelabra to accomplished bronziers and horologers, including Pierre-Philippe Thomire, Jean-Jacques Feuchère and Claude Galle.

The four-light candelabra feature winged figures of Victory standing upon spheres, their arms raised to support scrolling branches. Their square plinths are embellished with relief figures, ribbons, torches and other classical motifs. In ancient Rome, Winged Victories personified Victoria, the goddess of victory, and were later adopted by Napoleon to legitimise his imperial power in France and align his military triumphs with classical antiquity. This version of Winged Victory derives from similar candelabra designs by architect Charles Percier for Empress Joséphine's bedroom at the Château de Saint-Cloud. Other examples are attributed to Thomire, including those in the Château de Fontainebleau. A documented pair by Galle was supplied for the Boudoir of the Petit Trianon at Versailles in 1809.

David Roche acquired his candelabra from an antique store in Stockholm in 2008. Their provenance would have particularly delighted him: they had formerly belonged to the Swedish noble Wachtmeister family and their estate, Wanås Castle, which had been in the family's ownership since the early nineteenth century. Both their classical imagery and distinguished history make them a fitting addition to an exhibition exploring the enduring influence of the ancient world.

CANINE TIDBIT

Windswept Afghans

“The Afghan Hound is an aristocrat, his whole appearance one of dignity and aloofness with no trace of plainness or coarseness. He has a straight front, proudly carried head, eyes gazing into the distance as if in memory of ages past.”
– Afghan Hound Breed Standard, The American Kennel Club Inc.

The Afghan Hound’s long, silky coat is one of its most distinctive features, requiring regular grooming and meticulous care, particularly in preparation for showing. When properly maintained, the coat moves freely in the wind, accentuating the breed’s characteristic elegance and graceful ‘floating trot’. The impeccable grooming for which Fermoy Kennels was renowned only enhanced this striking quality.

Kay Finch, an American Kennel Club judge, accomplished Afghan Hound breeder, artist and close friend to David Roche, understood the beauty of the Afghan in motion. The House collection includes two of her ‘windswept’ Afghan Hounds: one in painted ceramic and the other in bronze. Both capture the movement, elegance and distinctive flowing coat that make the breed so admired.

These qualities are equally evident in this photograph of June Ashton leading one of the last Afghan Hounds of Fermoy Kennels around the front garden. Even caught mid-trot in a candid photograph, a windswept Afghan Hound seems to personify its breed standard.

DR G Shop Online

Regine Schwarzer
Discover a selection of Regine Schwarzer's beautiful jewellery and objects now available in-store. Including beautifully crafted necklaces, rings and miniature spoons. Shop in-store.

Christmas Gifts Arriving Soon
With the festive season just around the corner, we have some exciting Christmas gifts and accessories arriving at the Shop from jewellery, pop up cards, to decorated tins and ornaments. Stay tuned for exclusive Christmas offers coming soon!

BROWSE SHOP

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. Sign up and enjoy a range of exclusive benefits, including 25% off Fermoy House tours, 25% off exhibition tickets, 10% off the Gallery Shop, and much more.
Plus be the first to hear about our upcoming events to avoid missing out!

LEARN MORE

OTHER ART HIGHLIGHTS

CARRICK HILL

Sunset Sessions

Experience the magic of twilight at Carrick Hill, with stunning sunset views across Adelaide, live music and formal garden setting.

LEARN MORE

THE CEDARS

Native Christmas Wreath workshop | 13 December 2026

Join Amber from 'Foliage by Amber' to make your own stunning Australian native Christmas wreath with foliage

sourced from the Heysen property as well as special cuttings provided.

LEARN MORE

ARTS NATIONAL

Sèvres Porcelain: Dining with Gods | 25 November 2026
Presented by Leslie Stephen, this lecture will provide a review of the qualities that define Sèvres style, using examples from some of the world's finest collections.

LEARN MORE

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:** House of the Ancient Hunt, VII.4.48, Luigi Spina. **Treasure:** Attributed to William Buelow Gould, *Cat with fish,* C.1851. **DRG Shop banner:** George Bullock, *Specimen table* c. 1815, Brazilian rosewood, brass, gilt bronze, hardstones. The David Roche Collection. **DRG Membership banner:** Germany, Armchair (Fauteuil) c. 1750, oak, pine, gilt, replacement silk upholstery. 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.

View email in browser

update your preferences or unsubscribe