

# The David Roche Foundation House Museum



Paolo Sebastian (Australia established 2007), Paul Vasileff (Australia b.1990), designer, *East of the Sun and West of the Moon*, Autumn/Winter Couture Collection, 2019–2020, Adelaide. On loan from Paolo Sebastian.

On display in *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression*

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## TDRF: Club Fermoy #20

Dear friends and supporters,

As we enter the last month of winter and endure ongoing uncertainty surrounding our daily lives and plans due to the pandemic, I believe participating in cultural activities continues to offer much needed respite. In South Australia we're fortunate that our museums and galleries have reopened and our winter festivals have restarted. SALA (South Australian Living Artists) Festival has also just begun and is an egalitarian celebration of art and

community, so if you're in South Australia make sure to check out and support the amazing artistic talent we have in our state. I'm delighted that TDRF is presenting *In-flight*, the jewellery of Jane Bowden, Angela Giuliani, Michelle Kelly and Simon Williams for SALA 2021, and also that we are the first stop on the *Melbourne Street Open Air Gallery – Art Trail*. Come make a day of it in North Adelaide and enjoy art, culture and fresh new ideas.

Throughout August *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression* continues and acclaimed artist, Sera Waters, the mastermind behind the #survivalistsampler project, will present a sampler workshop in the gallery as well as a lecture evening. *Club Fermoy* and our website have further details. This edition also delves once again back into the canine world of which David Roche was an important international figure for many decades; indeed, as you'll find out, such was its importance to him that the requirements of his dogs dictated the home he bought in Sydney. Perhaps less recognised is David's collection of contemporary canine art by Jeremy Boot, Kay Finch, Norbertine Bresslern-Roth, as well as the work illustrated in this edition of the newsletter by Donald H. Green.

For those living interstate and unable to travel we have created a link so that you can view all of David's embroideries in the exhibition from the comfort of your own home (see Digital Collection) and are also working hard on recording a series of short podcasts on the *Embroidery* exhibition. Please check back on our website mid-August.

I extend my thanks again to those who have joined our new Membership program and if you're a regular TDRF patron I encourage you to consider becoming a member so you too can enjoy the rewards.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason  
Museum Director

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**NEW!**

**SALA EXHIBITION**

***In-Flight:***  
***occurring, carried out, or present while in flight***

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*Opening today!*

On display from 3 August to 4 September is *In-Flight: occurring, carried out, or present while in flight*, a SALA exhibition by Jane Bowden, Angela Giuliani, Michelle Kelly, and Simon Williams of Zu Design, who have created a series of incredible and beautiful pieces of jewellery in response to The David Roche Collection.

This 'cabinet of curiosities' is on display to view for free in the entry hall of TDRF, housed in an ornate French steel and gilt metal aviary owned by David that once adorned a corner of the Roman room. All the pieces on display (except the aviary itself) will be available for purchase.

**Details: *IN-FLIGHT: OCCURRING, CARRIED OUT, OR PRESENT WHILE IN FLIGHT***

3 August to 4 September 2021

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Exhibition free.



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## EXHIBITION

***Embroidery: Oppression to Expression***



Amy Joy Watson (Australia b.1987), *Parachilna 2*, 2021, watercolour and metallic thread on paper.  
Courtesy of the artist and the Hugo Michell Gallery.

People have been raving about our latest exhibition, *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression*. Here's just some of the comments that visitors have made:

*"We viewed this Exhibition yesterday enjoying both the exquisite and the humorous entries."*

*"This is such an interesting exhibition. Amazing what treasures we have in South Australian collections and thanks to the David Roche Collection for putting it together for us all to see. I will be back for a second visit!"*

And after a short hiatus, it's back open for your viewing pleasure until 25 September, an incredible display of over 100 beautiful and intricate embroidered works from across Europe and Australia from 1603 to the current day.

From a Jacobean-era embroidered book binding for a Book of Psalms to the photorealistic works by Margaret Lee, and meditative works depicting the Australian countryside by Amy Joy Watson, there's something for every taste!

**Details: *EMBROIDERY: OPPRESSION TO EXPRESSION***

Until 25 September 2021

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Exhibition entry \$12 adult. \$10 concession. Children under 12 free.

**No booking required.**

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



View of Sydney from David Roche's home at 48 View Street

Although after 1954 David Roche never considered anywhere other than Fermoy House his home, he nonetheless enjoyed regular visits to other cities in Australia, particularly Sydney and Melbourne, to exhibit his dogs in their Royal Shows. For many years, when visiting Sydney, David would stay at the Roche family home, but once that was sold c.2000, he required a new place to stay. Upon realising that any temporary accommodation was unsuitable for his needs, he made the decision to purchase a new residence.

After a short search, in 2001 David settled upon 48 View Street, Woollahra - a modern two-storey, two bedroom townhouse with a spectacular view of the city, conveniently located in the inner Eastern suburbs. However, most important for David was the generous size of the parking area beneath the house, though instead of using it for parking, he found the perfect space for setting up dog runs.

In terms of decoration, David had been originally intending that View Street would be a place he could relax and lead a simpler lifestyle than when surrounded by the glories of Fermoy House. To this end, it was more sparsely decorated, with Australian fine and decorative arts, including a delightful series of paintings by Harley Cameron Griffiths Junior (one of which can be seen in Today's Treasure); though David's love of French and British work was also evident in a variety of 18th and 19th century examples.

David would continue to stay at the property each Easter to attend the Sydney Royal Show until the end of his life. After his passing, the property was sold, while most of its contents were transported to Fermoy House, where a number of them can today be seen on display around the Foundation.



Donald H. Green (Australia b.1939), *Fermoy Kennels afghan hounds*, 1972, Adelaide, oil on masonite, gold leaf, 107.0 x 137.0 cm.

TDRF 3035

## CANINE TIDBITS

*Did you know...*

Walking into Fermoy Kennels, the walls were adorned with a collage of photographs, paintings and memorabilia. Standing out from all of these was a large oil painting of three Afghan Hounds, which apart from the dogs themselves was also quite striking because of the gold leaf background.

Commissioned by David Roche, it is by Melbourne-based artist Donald Green, and depicts three of David's Champion Afghan Hounds, two males from Britain and one of two imported bitches from the USA. Standing at the back is English and Australian Champion Mazari of Carloway (imported UK), sitting to the left is English and Australian Champion Waliwog of Carloway (imported UK) and finally at the front is Australian Champion Crown Crest Miss Carousel (imported USA).

David once recalled when he first saw Mazari, he thought him the most exciting dog he had seen, with an unmatched "pride of race, style and carriage and soundness", which was to make him an enormously important dog for Australia. In contrast, Waliwog - who had already had a fabulous show career in the UK - was offered to David by famed Afghan breeder, Sheila Devitt. However, when it was discovered that an Australian had acquired Waliwog, there was the thought in Britain that such a great dog should have stayed there.

With the arrival of the two Crown Crest bitches, Carousel and her sister Capriole, for his breeding program, David felt he had secured his four main Afghan Hounds.

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## TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Amanda R. discusses her love of one of David Roche's Australian pieces, the delightful *Still life of camellias* by Harley Cameron Griffiths Junior (1908-1981).



Harley Cameron Griffiths Junior (Australia 1908-1981), *Still life of camellias*, 1954, Australia, oil on panel, 32.5 x 37.5cm.

TDRF 1876

A favourite piece of mine, which given the grandeur of many of the items in the TDRF collection at Fermoy House, is perhaps an obscure selection, is Harley Cameron Griffiths' gorgeous *Still life of camellias*, 1954, which to my great pleasure has recently migrated to David Roche's dressing room.

Harley Griffiths Junior was born in Sydney. He studied under Archibald Douglas Calquhoun (1894–1983) as well as in Europe and the UK. He was a painter of interiors, still lifes and landscapes in the tonalist manner. His father was artist Harley Griffiths Senior (1878–1953), who shared a studio with Max Meldrum, the Scottish-born Australian artist, and the founder of Australian tonalism.

Like his father's fruit and floral still life studies, the younger Griffiths' studies of the same subject are regarded as having a uniqueness about them, and are considered technically brilliant, pulling together draftsmanship, tone of colour and the impression of light.

'Still life' as a genre includes all kinds of man-made or natural objects, including cut flowers, fruit, vegetables, fish, game, and wine. It can be read as a celebration of material pleasures such as food and wine, or often as a warning of the ephemerality of these pleasures and of the brevity of human life. The camellia flower symbolizes love, devotion, affection, and admiration. It can also represent the love between a mother and child and is often used in mourning arrangements as a result. In Victorian England, camellias were used to send the message that the recipient was adorable.

Although the majority of paintings in Fermoy House are concerned with subjects that rank much higher within the old hierarchy of genres for art established in the seventeenth century by the French Academy (in which still life was ranked at the bottom, after history painting, portraiture, genre painting and landscape), I nonetheless have a preference for the still life genre and believe that Griffiths' beautifully rendered *Still life of camellias* holds its own amongst the profusion of paintings within Fermoy House.

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## ACQUISITION



Britain, *Prayer chair*, c.1880, Britain, Brazilian rosewood, embroidered wool on canvas panels.

TDRF 3943

Currently on display as part of the *Embroidery: Oppression to Expression* is this impressive Victorian-era high back prayer chair with original embroidered Gothic Revival architectural and floral panels to the back and seat within an ornately carved rosewood frame on fine cabriole legs.

The prayer chair (*prie-dieu* in French) is a piece of furniture for an individual to kneel on when in prayer. It consists of a horizontal, low to the ground surface for kneeling, and a tall vertical section, at the top of which is a rest for elbows or a Bible. These pieces vary in grandeur, from the basic with no cushion for the knees or elbows to examples with fine needlepoint and monogrammed initials on either the fabric or the wood.

The embroidery on this example is cross-stitched Berlin work, a style highly popular in Victorian Britain, particularly with the burgeoning middle-classes. It was typically (though not always) done in wool on canvas. The immense popularity of Berlin work derived from three main factors: the ease of its creation (made using counted stitch patterns), its inexpensive materials and its bright and varied colours.

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## EVENTS



### **Survivalist Sampler workshop with Sera Waters**

#### **#survivalistsampler**

This workshop expands upon Sera Waters' #survivalistsampler project. In this workshop participants will have the opportunity to develop their own survivalist sampler through stitch. Basic stitch techniques will be covered as you work upon your sampler, however the emphasis will be upon developing ideas, sharing experiences and discussing the translation of these into stitched 'sampled' expressions.

Participants are asked to bring along a textile base for their sampler/stitched work. Sera encourages the use of textiles with a history; family, found, second-hand and used materials, including pieces of linen or cotton around the size of tea towels (napkins, runners, and tea towels themselves are great substrates). While threads, scissors, washable fabric markers and more will be available to share, please feel free to bring along your own supplies if you have them already.

*The #survivalistsampler project has been developed within Future Traditions, a visual arts project enabled by the 2020 Guildhouse Fellowship, with Art Gallery of South Australia and supported by the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation.*

**Saturday 21 August 10am-1pm**

**Cost:** \$40 (includes tea and/or coffee on arrival).

**Numbers limited. Book early to avoid disappointment.**

**Purchase tickets**

## **MEMBERSHIP**



Don't forget about our new Membership program!

Sign up now and enjoy a variety of fantastic benefits, including:

- **access to exclusive tours and special events**
- **a 25% discount on house tours and exhibition entry fees**
- **10% off lecture tickets**
- **10% off shop purchases**
- **and so much more!**

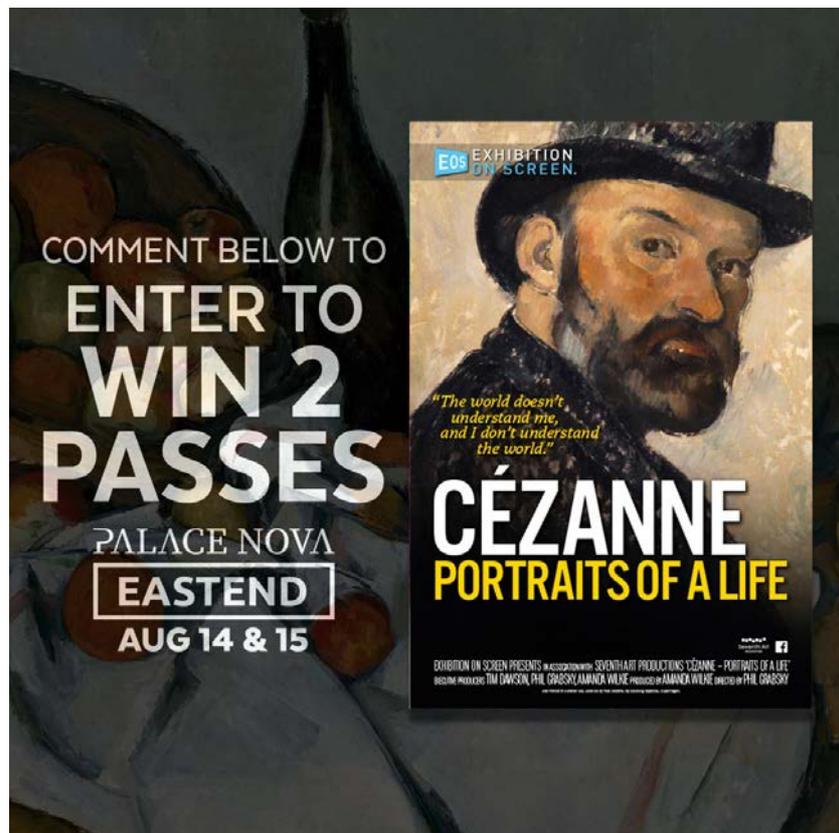
In addition, you will be supporting TDRF to continue presenting world-class exhibitions, lectures with expert guest speakers from across the country and acquiring important pieces to add to the Collection.

Join the TDRF membership today and be part of one of Australia's finest art institutions!

For more information about the membership or to sign up, click the button below to visit the Membership page on our website or contact [info@rochefoundation.org.au](mailto:info@rochefoundation.org.au).

Find out more

## MOVIE PRIZE GIVEAWAY



The David Roche Foundation has partnered with Palace Nova Eastend to offer our loyal supporters the opportunity to win two passes to see *Art on Screen - Cézanne: Portraits of a life* at Palace Nova Cinemas on August 14 and 15. From the National Portrait Gallery in London, Musée d'Orsay in Paris & The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. comes *Cezanne: A Life in Portraits*. Dedicated to the portrait work of Paul Cézanne, the exhibition opened in Paris before travelling to London and Washington.

This film features interviews with curators and experts from the National Portrait Gallery London, MoMA New York, National Gallery of Art Washington, and Musée d'Orsay Paris, and correspondence from the artist himself, and takes audiences beyond the exhibition to the places Cézanne lived and worked and sheds light on an artist who is perhaps the least known of all the impressionists – until now.

All you have to do is CLICK BELOW and let us know your favourite exhibition held at The David Roche Foundation, and you enter the draw to win these tickets! The competition is open until midnight on Sunday 8 August, and the winner will be drawn on Monday 9 August.

Tickets on sale now at: <https://palacenova.com.au/special-events/exhibition-on-screen-cezanne-portraits-of-a-life-aug-14-15>

**Enter the draw**

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## SHOP

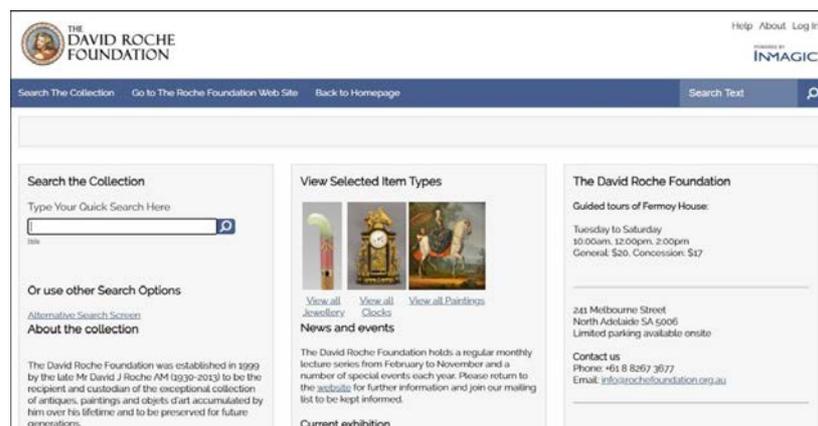
If you're fascinated by embroidery and want to learn more then you'll want to pick up one (or more!) of the books on sale in store at TDRF. Read a fascinating history of embroidery by Clare Hunter in *Threads of Life*, start a new embroidery project using some recently discovered 18th century embroidery patterns in *Jane Austin Embroidery* or be inspired by some of the most wonderful Arts & Crafts designs in *The William Morris Colouring Book*.

Or click the button below to see what else is on offer!



Visit the shop

## DIGITAL COLLECTION



We've added another 19 pieces to view on the online database, including the Queen Anne quilting that was featured in the last newsletter, plus a variety of early ABC Children's plates, Staffordshire figures and a gorgeous Regency-era plaque depicting the Ancient Greek Sybil.

**We have made it easy for you to view David's embroideries on display in the current exhibition just by clicking 'View Embroideries in TDRF collection' below.**

Find your favourite piece or discover something new. Click the Search button below.

**See the new entries**

**View Embroideries in TDRF collection**

**Search the collection**

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

We are on Facebook and Instagram! We provide regular content through our social media channels. Follow us now to keep in the loop!



## LINKS WE LOVE

David Roche loved porcelain from all across the world, with a particular fondness for the French taste. The French Porcelain Society is a group dedicated to the enjoyment and study of the field of French porcelain. On their website, you can access a multitude of journals, papers, and newsletters on the topic, and if you join as a member, you can watch streamed lectures. A wonderful resource for the lover of all things porcelain:

<https://www.thefrenchporcelainsociety.com/>

The SALA (South Australian Living Artist) Festival is upon us once again, and there are so many wonderful exhibitions to view in all sorts of locations across South Australia for the month of August (including *In-Flight* by Zu Design at TDRF). Find out more by visiting the SALA website:

<https://www.salafestival.com/>



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**TDRF acknowledges the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the Adelaide region. We recognise and respect Kurna heritage, beliefs and spiritual relationship with Country, and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.**

