
CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum newsletter



Martyn Cook and David Roche, 2008

Club Fermoy #28

Dear friends and supporters,

Early April is a time of reflection at Roche Foundation as our founder David Roche passed away on March 27, 2013, and our inaugural Museum Director, Martyn Cook, on April 2, 2019. They both achieved a tremendous amount in their lifetimes and had a lot of fun together along the way. David left an incredible legacy through his collection, home and foundation, and Martyn assisted in developing that collection and brought it to life spectacularly as a house museum with a superb new museum wing in 2016. Building on that shared vision of creating a museum of international standing continues and the Foundation will soon be announcing details of its masterplan that will significantly transform our current site. It includes a 350 seat

auditorium, display storage for the collection, the Martyn Cook library, and a café, and I very much look forward to sharing the masterplan with you in the coming months.

David's self-belief in the importance of his collection reached a turning-point in 2008 as you will read in this edition's *From the Archives* when highlights from his collection were exhibited and catalogued by the Art Gallery of South Australia, where I was fortunate to be the co-curator with Christopher Menz. Acquiring antiques was a largely private endeavour for David whereas in the canine-world he was supremely confident in the dog-ring as judge and exhibitor. In this issue you can find out more about his Afghans, such stately and beautiful animals.

Art, fashion and activism are brought together in our current exhibition *Silhouettes*, illustrating the expressive freedom of 70s clothing and 'power' glamour dressing of the 80s. Learn more about fashion activism with Timothy Roberts at our next talk in April. Recent television series have also reinvigorated our interest and understanding of Halston and Andy Warhol as consumers and makers of culture. You can see them together in *Silhouettes*, along with a number of other American fashion designers who are rarely seen in Australia.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

EXHIBITION

SILHOUETTES

Fashion in the Shadow of HIV/AIDS



Curated by Skye Bartlett (SAMESH), *Silhouettes: Fashion in the Shadow of HIV/AIDS* explores the lives and works of some of fashion's brightest stars from the late 20th century from household names like Halston and Moschino to forgotten talents like Chester Weinberg and Clovis Ruffin.

Across 120 pieces of fashion, art and ephemera on display – sourced from esteemed private and public collections from around the world – *Silhouettes* is a powerful reminder of an entire generation of international designers lost to the virus but deserving of contemporary recognition.

Details:

Silhouettes: Fashion in the Shadow of HIV/AIDS

Until 18 June 2022

Tuesday to Saturday 10AM – 4PM

No booking required.

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

Guided house tour & exhibition entry: \$20 adult. \$17 concession.
Children under 12 free.

Guided tours of *Silhouettes*

Each Friday 11:15am
(Curator's tour second Friday of the month)

Register for a guided tour

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Perhaps one of the first times many people would have been aware of David Roche and his collection would have been in 2008, with the *Empires & Splendour* exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) from 6 June to 27 July. This exhibition, co-curated by gallery director Christopher Menz and Robert Reason (then Curator of Decorative Arts at AGSA) displayed the 150 highlights of The David Roche Collection in the galleries of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

All of the pieces one would expect were on display: the Clemente Ciuli micromosaic table, the *Resolution table*, the *Chelsea Music Lesson*, the Durs Egg *Flintlock pistol* and a variety of other pieces by makers and designers including jewellery by Fabergé, porcelain by Sevres, Meissen and Worcester, furniture by Percier and Fontaine, George Bullock, Chippendale the Younger and Thomas Hope and an array of other renowned factories and individuals.

To accompany the exhibition, AGSA published a 280-page hardback book, generously funded by David. Written by Christopher and Robert, it included entries relating to all the pieces in the exhibition with gorgeous colour photographs and some entries by international experts. In addition, it also included an introduction by David himself, which provides the reader with a rare insight into the mind of this notoriously private collector.

It was said that David resisted the idea of going to see the exhibition for most of its run, but ultimately was convinced that the display was so spectacular that he had to go and see it. However, rather than being shown around by the AGSA director or curator, David decided that he would go incognito (replete with baseball cap) to see the exhibition. According to Martyn Cook, who accompanied him on his visit, he was overwhelmed by what he saw, and shed a tear at the beauty of his pieces on display at the gallery.



Images: AGSA installation of *Empires & Splendour*, 2008

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our fantastic guides and volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Leslie S. discusses the intriguing ormolu figure of *Ajax, defying the Gods*, looking in particular at the history of the work and the mythology behind it.



attributed Pierre-Philippe Thomire (France 1751-1843), *Ajax, defying the Gods*, c.1813, ormolu. TDRF 2758

I have always loved this sculpture with its luscious ormolu and the incongruity between the diminutive figure contrasting with its powerful gesture of a fist, raised clenched toward the skies.

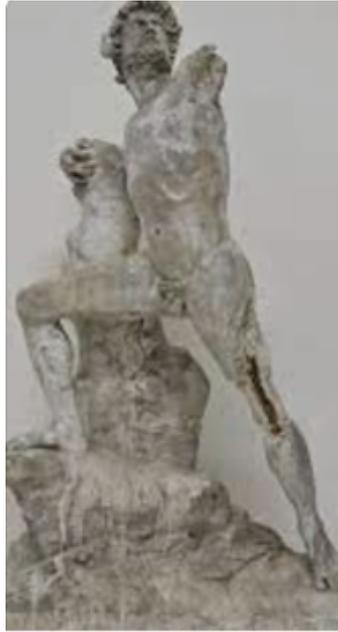
It is modelled after a lost 1812 marble, *Ajax, defying the Gods*, commissioned by the city of Paris from Louis Marie Charles Henry Mercier Dupaty (1771-1825). Although the marble is no longer extant, an original plaster modello can still be found in the Musée des Beaux Arts in Bordeaux.

In Homer's epic, the *Iliad*, Ajax the Lesser is one of the mythological Greek heroes of the Trojan War with a reputation as an accomplished fighter in battle. He is not to be confused with the other Greek hero of the war, the more famous Ajax the Greater, son of King Telamon. Ajax the Lesser was in the wooden horse the Greeks delivered to the city of Troy. It was during the sacking of Troy that he committed an act of sacrilege against the goddess Athena in her temple, when he raped Cassandra, daughter of King Priam of Troy.

Angered by this outrage, Athena summoned a tempest as the Greeks set sail on their journey home that caused the ship in which Ajax the Lesser sailed to be wrecked upon the Whirling Rocks. Pleading to the gods for help, Ajax was saved by the intervention of Poseidon, and found himself clinging to the rocks. However Ajax, in an arrogant display of hubris, then pronounced that he lived despite the best attempts of the gods. In doing so, he incurred the wrath of the insulted Poseidon, who struck the rock that Ajax was clinging on with his trident, causing Ajax to lose his grip and drown.

Looking at this version of the figure, the right arm is shaped in such a way as to have once been cradling something. In the model of the original sculpture (and in many subsequent copies in sculptures, clocks and portraits), this arm is clinging

to a rocky outcrop, the right leg stepped up onto rocks. As such, it seems then that this piece was once part of a larger work that included the rock, perhaps a clock?



Louis Marie Charles Henry Mercier Dupaty (France 1771-1825), *Ajax bravant les Dieux*, c. 1812
(Musée des Beaux Arts, Bordeaux)

CANINE TIDBITS



Coastwind Jubilan Batman, late 1980s

Over the years, David Roche imported a number of dogs to enhance the bloodlines at Fermoy Kennels. These were predominately Kerry Blue Terriers, Afghans and later Smooth Fox Terriers.

The way in which we dress, whether it be from accessories to a complete ensemble, or brands and slogans emblazoned, serves not only as a method of protecting and adorning ourselves, but also a way to express our individual style and signal our values and ideals to others. Today, fashion is one way in which individuals can champion causes or raise awareness for social and political issues – veritably wearing their heart on their sleeve. In this discussion, join art historian Timothy Roberts for a discussion on how fashion has been used as a vehicle to drive change, both by high-end fashion designers on the runway and grassroots organisations taking their messages to the streets.

About the speaker

Timothy Roberts is an historian specialising in Australian art heritage, decorative arts, material culture, and LGBTQI+ memory, and is a curatorial contributor to *Silhouettes: Fashion in the shadow of HIV/AIDS*.

Book now

The Rainbow Horizons project

LGBTI people are invited to participate in an important project to create greater support across generations in relation to end-of-life planning, care and dying.

What is this project about?

COTA SA, through their Rainbow Hub, is delivering the Rainbow Horizons Project, in partnership with Office for Ageing Well, to:

- facilitate conversations between LGBTI community members about end-of-life care, planning and dying, both between LGBTI elders, and between elders and younger members of the LGBTI community
- design and trial an intergenerational LGBTI 'compassionate community' model that supports end-of-life care, planning and dying

Why get involved?

The Project aims to create greater mutual support across generations in relation to end-of-life planning and by participating you will help shape a compassionate community model and assist businesses to better understand and respond to the needs of LGBTI people.

Would you like to get involved?

For more information or to participate in the project: [COTA SA | #ReframingAgeing - Rainbow Horizons](#) or contact Jackie Wurm, the Rainbow Horizons Project Officer, email jwurm@cotasa.org.au or ring COTA SA on (08) 8232 0422.

MEMBERSHIP



Have you considered joining The David Roche Foundation House Museum membership?

By joining, you will be able to 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.

Sign up to TDRF membership today, so you can 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 memberships@rochefoundation.org.au.

Find out more

ONLINE SHOP



Well well well, what have we here?

It's our new tote bag!

Featuring a bright and colourful detail from the wonderful c.1815 *Specimen table* by George Bullock, this Australian made, 100% cotton bag will make you stand out in any crowd!

Get yours now from our online shop or come in and pick it up at TDRF!

Get your new Tote Bag

Visit the shop

COLLECTION

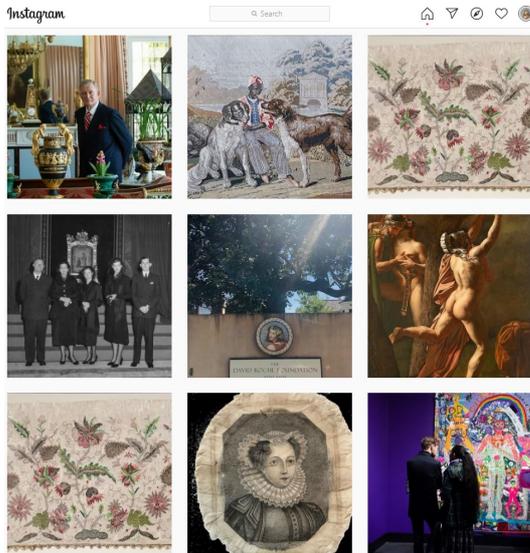


Did you know that many of the items in
The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

*Search by title, artist, type, materials, and place made to find
out more about your favourite piece or discover something new.*

Search the Collection

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!



Facebook



Instagram

LINKS WE LOVE

Cal and Jack from JOY FM came to the opening of our *Silhouettes* exhibition in January, and while here they spoke to exhibition curator Skye Bartlett, fashion historian Timothy Roberts, and some of the guests about their first impressions of the exhibition.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Silhouettes

Fashion
in the shadow of HIV/AIDS
29 Jan – 18 June 2022



THE DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION
ADELAIDE
House Museum

Presented in
partnership with:

SAMESH
A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SHINE SA & THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH



The David Roche Foundation
House Museum

241 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide 5006

T: [+61 8 8267 3677](tel:+61882673677)

E: info@rochefoundation.org.au

W: www.rochefoundation.com.au

TDRF 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.



[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The David Roche Foundation · 241 Melbourne Street · North Adelaide · Adelaide, SA 5006 · Australia