

The David Roche Foundation House Museum
North Adelaide

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CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum newsletter



Image: The sun is shining and the flowers are blooming every spring morning at Fermoy House

Club Fermoy #34

Dear friends and supporters,

As the weather warms up this spring, The David Roche Foundation is looking as good as ever. Pansies are in bloom in the gardens, and each morning the gentle warbles of magpies can be heard from the impressive Queensland lacebark in the front garden. Our current exhibition *Fantastical Worlds* continues to delight audiences, and we hope that you return to see the exhibition, tour David Roche's collection at Fermoy House, or simply enjoy the surrounds.

There are plenty of activities to enjoy this month. This Saturday 8 October at 1pm, we welcome *Fantastical Worlds* artists Kate Rohde, Jordan Gogos and collaborator Denis Vukcevic, and Stephen Bowers for an artistic afternoon of discussion about their

practice. Join acclaimed jewellery expert Anne Schofield and *Fantastical Worlds* curator Eva Czernis-Ryl for a conversation on jewels and adornment on Thursday 20 October at 6pm. The following morning, Friday 21 October, come along on a curator's tour of *Fantastical Worlds* with Eva Czernis-Ryl at 10.30am. These programmes will sell out quickly, so book early using the links further in this newsletter to avoid disappointment.

Thanks to generous individuals who share David Roche's love of decorative arts and design, the Foundation has recently received a number of gifts, which we will profile in upcoming newsletters and on social media. The first of these gifts is shown further in this newsletter, and we are proud to expand David Roche's vision to ensure the Foundation remains a leader of decorative arts in Australia.

Finally, on October 29 Melbourne Street will come alive for Meander Market. Set among the fabulous shop fronts of Melbourne and Jerningham Streets, local artisans and bespoke designers will showcase their wares, you'll hear live music from great Adelaide talents, and the cafes and restaurants will be open to sate your appetite. It's a perfect day to visit North Adelaide, so why not stop by and see *Fantastical Worlds* as well?

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

CURRENT EXHIBITION



Image: Peter Chang, *Bracelet*, plastics and silver, Scotland, 2004. Powerhouse collection, purchased 2005. Photo: Marinco Kojdanovski

FANTASTICAL WORLDS

The David Roche Foundation is proud to host *Fantastical Worlds*, a travelling exhibition developed by Powerhouse museum, Sydney, comprising playful arrangements of old and new.

The Powerhouse collection holds many objects that instil a sense of wonder. Made using a wide range of materials and techniques, they seduce us with their otherworldly beauty, stimulate our imagination and shed light on how we perceive ourselves and the world.

Fantastical Worlds is developed around works from four artists and designers: Timothy Horn, Alexander McQueen, Kate Rohde and Timorous Beasties. Inspired by elaborate European art styles from the past such as Baroque, Rococo and Empire, they imaginatively transform historical ideas, forms and patterns into striking 21st century creations. Playful arrangements of new and old complement these artworks, revealing creative brilliance behind contemporary and historical designs. For this iteration of the exhibition, Powerhouse ceramics, jewellery, silver, textiles and fashion are joined by decorative arts objects and paintings from The David Roche Foundation in a wondrous offering of dazzling form, ornament and colour.

Details:

Fantastical Worlds

Until 24 December 2022

Tuesday to Saturday 10AM – 4PM

No booking required.

Exhibition entry: \$15 adult. \$12 concession.

Children under 12 free.

FANTASTICAL WORLDS GUIDED TOURS



Image: Kate Rohde, *Deer vase (detail)* 2016. Powerhouse collection, purchased 2017. Photo: Sam Roberts

Learn more about the pieces in *Fantastical Worlds* by joining a tour led by one of our passionate volunteers. Tours take place each Friday at 11.15AM, and are free with your exhibition ticket. Numbers are limited, so be sure to book to reserve your place!

[Book your ticket now](#)

Don't forget to take a look at our *Fantastical Worlds* merchandise next time you visit. Our range includes Andrew Wilson's acclaimed biography of Alexander McQueen *Blood Beneath the Skin*; and a selection of tea towels designed by *Fantastical Worlds* collective Timorous Beasties. These items are only available in-store!

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Image: Meissen Porcelain Manufactory (Germany established 1710), Johann Joachim Kaendler (German 1706–1775), modeller, *Dish (from the Swan Service)* c. 1738, hard-paste porcelain, polychrome enamel, gilt. (TDRF 2473)

Nestled among the treasures on display in *Fantastical Worlds* is a remarkable ceramic that has long been admired by Australian audiences thanks to David Roche.

The Swan Service is one of the most impressive and significant porcelain table services to be manufactured in the eighteenth century. Made by the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory, it was commissioned by the factory's Director, Count Heinrich von Brühl in 1736 and was conceived by the firm's lead designer, Johann Joachim Kändler. It took over four years to design and fill the commission, which amounted to over 2,200 pieces, and is named for the relief swan design on each piece.

In 2003 David Roche purchased a plate from the service, which he was able to admire at Fermoy House. In June 2005 a much larger dish measuring 42cm in diameter came onto the market through a Sotheby's sale in London. David Roche was successful in acquiring the dish and arranged for it's delivery to Australia. No sooner than the dish arrived on Australian shores was it sent to the Powerhouse Museum, where it was put on public display for visitors to enjoy.

The David Roche Foundation is proud to display the large dish in *Fantastical Worlds*, and the other swan service plate may be viewed alongside other significant examples of European porcelain in the Drawing Room at Fermoy House.

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Geoff S discusses *Portrait of Thomas Dawson 1751* by Pompeo Batoni.



Image: Pompeo Batoni (1708- 1787) *Portrait of Thomas Dawson 1751*. Oil on canvas. Generously loaned to The David Roche Foundation by a private collector.

Thanks to the generosity of a private collector, The David Roche Foundation is proud to display a handsome portrait of Thomas Dawson by Pompeo Batoni (1708 – 1787). Batoni became the “painter of choice” for, primarily, the young sons of English, Scottish and Irish aristocrats and landowners finishing the Grand Tour in Rome between 1744 and 1787. Indeed, of the approximately 275 known Batoni portraits, about 200 are of those travellers.

Thomas Dawson was in Rome in 1751 and commissioned two portraits from Batoni. In this $\frac{3}{4}$ length portrait, he is wearing a green fur-lined coat, holding a spear and caressing a brown and white dog, and the head of a dead boar lower right. The composition is reminiscent of Batoni's portraits of Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh and Benjamin Lethieullier, also in Rome at the same time. In Batoni's other portrait of Dawson, he faces the right, is wearing a red fur-lined coat, a grey waistcoat and has a black solitaire tied around his neck.

Distinguished art historian Anthony M. Clark wrote of Batoni's 1750s portraits: [They] are of particular interest because of their exceptional quality and because they reveal the intensity of Batoni's efforts to establish himself as *the* portrait painter in Rome: never again does he delineate the features of his sitters with quite the same anatomical precision, articulate their hands and limbs with such crispness, or clothe them in such vividly coloured costumes.

Like his father, Dublin-based banker Richard Dawson, Thomas Dawson was active in politics, sitting as a Member of the Irish Parliament for County Monaghan from 1749 to 1768. He was Sheriff of County Monaghan in 1755, and was variously a governor of St Patrick's Hospital, the Hibernian Society and the Foundling and Workhouse Hospital. He was a prominent Irish Quaker, and following the death of his first wife, Lady Anne Fermor in 1769, the following year he married Philadelphia Hannah Freame, a granddaughter of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania.

He was elevated to the peerage as Baron Dartrey of Dawson's Grove in 1770, and was made Viscount Cremorne in 1785. One of Ireland's largest landowners, his estates were producing revenues of £8,000 (about £750,000 today) in 1800. Dawson and his second wife moved to England after the Acts of Union in 1800 where they had an estate near Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire and a townhouse in Stanhope Street, London. Cremorne Gardens on the banks of the Thames are named for them. His three sons predeceased him and on his death in 1813, his titles became extinct, and the Barony of Cremorne passed to his great-nephew Richard Thomas Dawson.

Other portraits of Dawson exist – one executed by Joshua Reynolds in 1753, one by Sir Thomas Lawrence PRA from 1789, and one by American portraitist Gilbert Stuart from 1785. Few other portraits by Batoni are in Australia. [Edward Weld is at Art Gallery of South Australia](#) and [Gideon Sampson is at National Gallery of Victoria](#).

Geoff S

To see Pompeo Batoni's Portrait of Thomas Dawson and other significant portraits of European nobility, [book your tour](#) of Fermoy House today.

EVENT

An Artistic Afternoon

Kate Rohde Jordan Gogos and Denis Vukcevic Stephen Bowers



Image: detail of *Deer Vase*, Kate Rohde, 2016. Powerhouse collection, purchased 2017; *Outfit Look 28, The Witchy Poo*, Jordan Gogos with Denis Vukcevic, Iordanes Spyridon Gogos, 2021. Powerhouse collection, purchased 2022; *Pair of vases (flowers and birds)*, Stephen Bowers, 2021. Private Collection, Adelaide.

Saturday 8 October | 1PM-4PM

Spend your Saturday meeting *Fantastical Worlds* artists and designers Kate Rohde, Jordan Gogos and collaborator Denis Vukcevic, and Stephen Bowers. Hear about about their ideas and artistic practice in a lively afternoon of discussion and design. Light refreshments included.

About the speakers

Kate Rohde is known for her sculptural object and installation practice. Significant exhibitions include *Magic Object; the 2016 Biennial of Australian Art* at the Art Gallery of South Australia, *Obsessed: Compelled to make* at the Australian Design Centre, which toured numerous venues around Australia from 2018 – 2022, and *Myth Making* at Horsham Regional Art Gallery in 2022.

Jordan Gogos is known for functional art and compression wall textiles, as well as his eponymous fashion label, Iordanes Spyridon Gogos. He works with repurposed, recycled and dead stock textiles, given to him by friends and colleagues. His functional sculpture is made from folded and welded sheet metal without the need for hardware.

Denis Vukcevic is a designer and artist whose work is centred on fantasy. His work has been featured in numerous Australian and international publications. In addition to his artistic practice, he works as a community lawyer in a non-for-profit organisation.

Stephen Bowers is known for his exuberant ceramic decoration, which references and responds to craft traditions, natural history, memory and commentary. He has participated in landmark exhibitions within Australia and overseas, and is represented in most major Australian public collections.

Book your ticket now

EVENT

Fantastical Jewels

Anne Schofield and Eva Czernis-Ryl



Image: *Bracelet, 'Java-la-Grande. India, Goa, Indo-Portuguese, circa second quarter of the 16th century (?)'* by Robert Baines, 2004-05. Powerhouse Museum, purchased with funds from the Yasuko Myer bequest, 2011. Photo: Sam Roberts

Thursday 20 October | 6PM

Sydney's renowned antique jewellery expert Anne Schofield AM and *Fantastical Worlds* curator Eva Czernis-Ryl will give an illustrated talk about jewellery in *Fantastical Worlds*. From opulent Baroque jewels to striking contemporary creations, they will highlight the skills and imaginations of jewellers and artists

across time and place.

About the speakers

Anne Schofield AM established Anne Schofield Antiques in Sydney in 1970, a mecca for jewellery lovers for over 50 years. In 2003 Ms Schofield was appointed a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia for her services to the Performing Arts and to the Decorative Arts, particularly Antiques, as an author and consultant. She is a member of the International Society of Jewellery Historians, a Life Fellow of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, and co-author with Kevin Fahy of the seminal book *Australian Jewellery: 19th and Early 20th century*.

Eva Czernis-Ryl is an art historian, author and award-winning curator at the Powerhouse museum in Sydney. Eva specialises in European and Australian art and design from the 18th century until the present. She was curator for the Powerhouse's Willoughby Bequest 2020 Commissioning Program that supported six Australian artists to create new works for the permanent collection.

[Book your ticket now](#)

EVENT

Fantastical Worlds
A tour with Curator Eva Czernis-Ryl



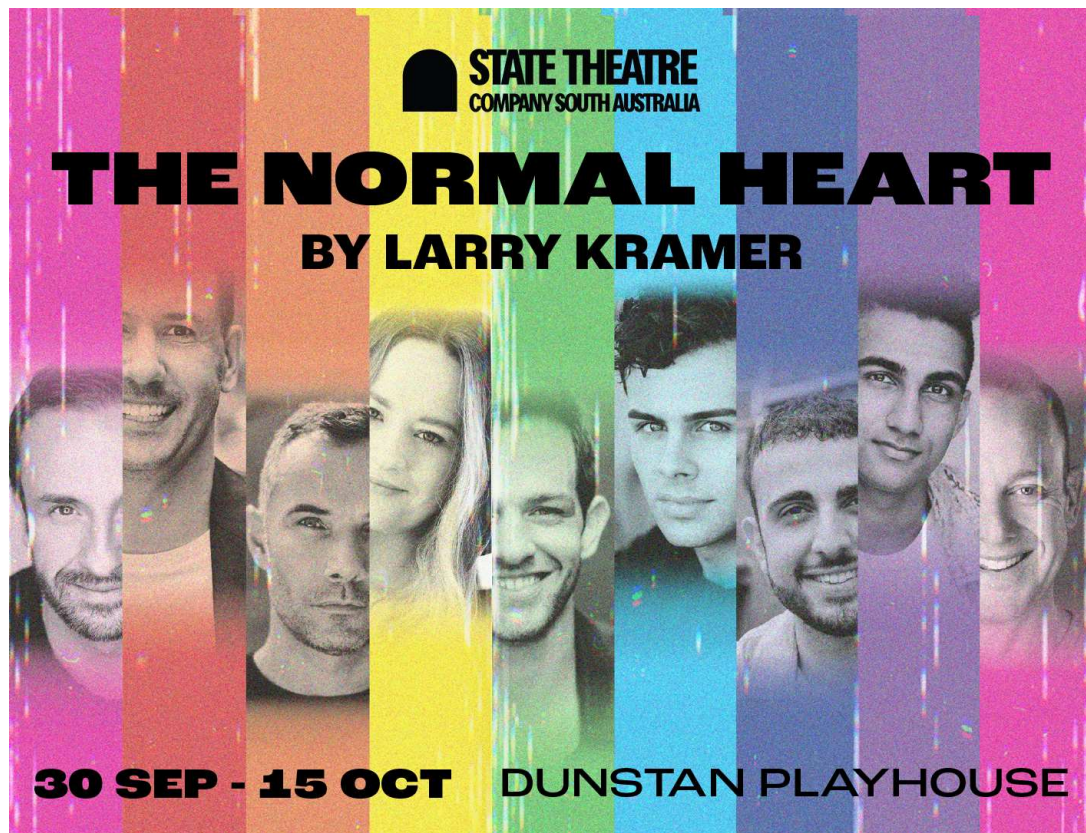
Image: *Fantastical Worlds* installation view, August 2022. Photo: Sam Roberts

Friday 21 October | 10.30AM

Explore the delights of *Fantastical Worlds* with Powerhouse museum curator Eva Czernis-Ryl. As you view the exhibition, hear the stories behind the works. Tea and coffee will be served at 10.30am prior to the tour.

Book your ticket now

SPECIAL OFFER



Exclusive discount for The David Roche Foundation subscribers

State Theatre Company South Australia presents *The Normal Heart* by Larry Kramer, the epic semi-autobiographical play about the AIDS epidemic in 1980s New York, for the first time on the South Australian mainstage, **30 September – 15 October 2022** at the **Dunstan Playhouse**.

This landmark production is a political drama of epic Shakespearean proportions and a thrilling tale of family, friendship, love and betrayal. Documenting Larry Kramer's activism on the frontline of the AIDS crisis, this Tony Award winning masterpiece will enchant a new generation under the direction of Helpmann Award winner Dean Bryant (*Torch the Place*), with a star ensemble cast led by State Theatre Company South Australia Artistic Director Mitchell Butel in the pivotal role of Ned.

We're pleased to offer an exclusive discount for The David Roche Foundation subscribers. Get \$10 off the price of adult tickets to any performance of *The Normal Heart* by entering the code **ROCHE10** at checkout when booking online. [Click here to book](#)

NEW ACQUISITION

The David Roche Foundation is proud to receive two contemporary works of art recently displayed in *Doppelgänger* and *Zombies*.



From 2020-2022, the inaugural The SIDA, UniSA and The David Roche Foundation Research Fellowship in Interior Design and Decoration was awarded to Dr Rochus Urban Hinkel. Using David Roche's Collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century decorative arts as a starting point, Hinkel investigated the potentials, promises, limitations, and specificities of digital technology in design. *Zombie Manticorus 2022* (left) and *Zombie Incubus and Sylph 2022* (right) are two of several works of art that evidence the outcomes of this fellowship.

To create the works, Hinkel applied scanning techniques including 360 degree photography and photogrammetry, to Chelsea Porcelain Factory *The Music Lesson* c. 1765 (TDRF 765) and Thomas Hope *Lion X-Frame Stool* 1810-1815 (TDRF 1527). The data from these activities were subjected to various digital modelling processes, including rendering, image manipulation, and algorithm development. The resulting works, which are printed in stereolithographic resin and thermoplastic are not meant to slavishly replicate the original pieces, but are new works in their own right.

These two works raise a number of important questions around the authenticity of art objects, and use of technology in the development of art. While these objects re-interpret historic works of art and are printed in an edition, the works that inspire them are also drawn from historic examples, and multiple examples were made. Furthermore, the adoption of technology in the creation of art is not new; *The Music Lesson* was created less than 60 years after the development of hard-paste porcelain in Europe - a time when manufacturers were still very much experimenting with recipes for ceramic matrixes and trialing new glaze recipes. *Zombie Manticorus* and *Zombie Incubus and Sylph* remind us that experimentation with new technology is still paramount for artists working today.

The David Roche Foundation is proud to accept these works as evidence of the outcomes of the SIDA, UniSA and The David Roche Foundation Research Fellowship in Interior Design and Decoration 2020-2022, and to highlight how historic works of art can inform and inspire contemporary practice. If you are interested in furthering David Roche's vision through the donation of works of art or making a financial contribution to the museum, please contact Museum Director Robert Reason for a confidential discussion.

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



As summer storm season approaches, make sure you are prepared! Our large umbrellas are lightweight yet sturdy, with a mechanism that makes opening as easy as pressing a button. Best of all, they are priced at just \$35, and are available in three designs inspired by highlights from David Roche's collection.

Order online at <https://www.rochefoundation.com.au/shop/> or by calling us on **(08) 8267 3677** or emailing us at info@rochefoundation.org.au (with your contact details). Click and collect is available.

P.S. Don't forget to take a look at our *Fantastical Worlds* merchandise next time you visit. Our range includes a selection of tea towels designed by *Fantastical Worlds* collective Timorous Beasties. These items are extremely limited and are only available in-store!

[Visit the shop](#)

COLLECTION

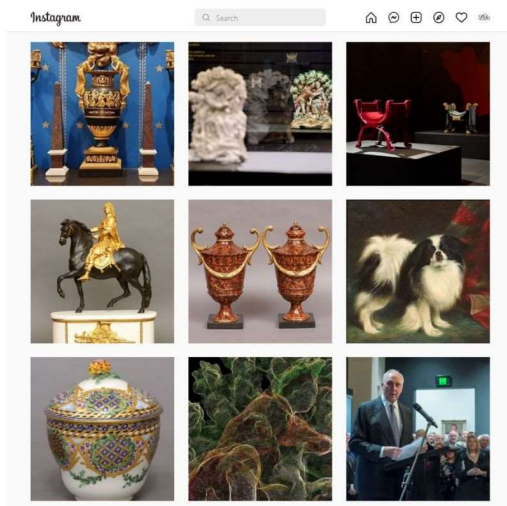


**Did you know that many of the items in
The David Roche Collection are available to view online?**

*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.**



LINKS WE LOVE

Our *Fantastical Worlds* featured artist this month is Alexander McQueen, who is represented in the exhibition by look 3 from his final collection, presented for Autumn/Winter 2010. Critic Sarah Mower covered the collection for Vogue, writing a detailed account of the inspirations behind the collection, accompanied by photographs of all the looks presented in the Autumn/Winter 2010 collection. [Read it here.](#)



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House Museum

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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.

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