
CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter



Image: 50 stunning photographic portraits are on display in the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022*, a touring exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Must close 1 April!

Club Fermoy #39

Dear friends and supporters,

The *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022* continues to enthrall our audiences. Recently we welcomed Luther Cora, NPPP22 People's Choice Award winner for a conversation, where he spoke about his art, life, and artist journey. Coming up on 16 March Shane Le Plastrier joins us to present revelatory insights into the story of Australian colonial photographic portraiture. Further details and how to book are featured later in this newsletter.

Further in this newsletter you will learn more about a new acquisition, a remarkable pastel portrait of Colonel Thomas Thornton. The particularly fine likeness housed in its original frame makes a fine complement to the Durs Egg flintlock duelling pistol in the collection, which Thornton presented to Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. See this new acquisition in the Main Bedroom on your next tour of Fermoy House.

On Thursday 30 March we are proud to present a very special Twilight Evening. You'll have the opportunity to view the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022*, hear about the works from Curator Tim Roberts, and enjoy a beverage on the splendid lawns at Fermoy House, but we are very excited to present an exclusive performance by NPPP22 artists The Huxleys! Be sure to book your tickets to this very special occasion, and don't forget to tell your friends.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Museum Director

FINAL WEEKS!



Image: Wayne Quilliam, *Silent Strength* 2021 (detail), inkjet print on paper.

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2022

The David Roche Foundation is delighted to be the first venue for the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022* from the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Selected from a national field of entries, the exhibition reflects the distinctive vision of Australia's aspiring and professional portrait photographers and the unique nature of their subjects.

Now in its fifteenth year, the prize is one of the National Portrait Gallery's most popular annual events.

Among the 50 portraits on display are NPPP 2022 Winner Wayne Quilliam's powerful portrait *Silent Strength* 2021, depicting Aurukun man Eric Yunkaporta, People's Choice Award Winner Luther Cora's *Flora and Fauna, Giara: White Cockatoo* 2021, and includes the photography of Chris Budgeon, Tom Evangelidis, Adam Ferguson, Petrina Hicks, Bec Lorrimer, Jacob Nash, and The Huxleys.

[Details:](#)

National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022

Closes 1 April 2023

Tuesday to Saturday 10AM – 4PM

No booking required.

Exhibition entry: \$12 adult. \$10 concession.

Children under 12 free.

EVENT

'Secure the Shadow' The photographic portrait in colonial Australia

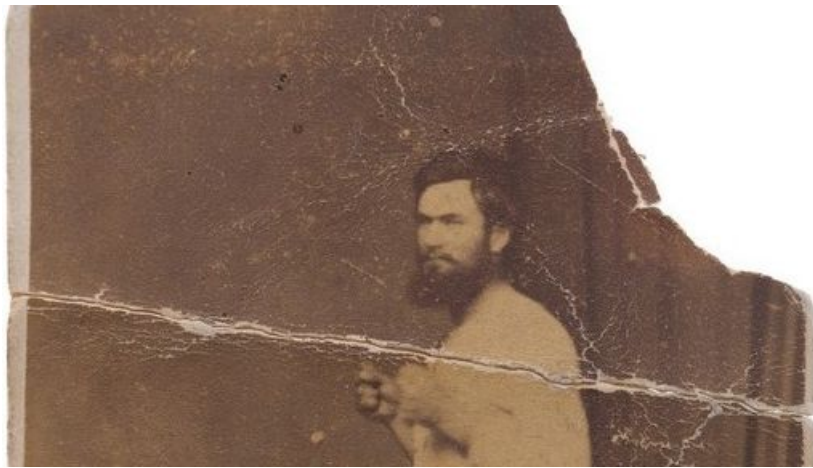


Image: John Chidley, *Ned Kelly in boxing pose* (detail), 1874, carte de visite photograph.

Thursday 16 March | 6.00PM

In 1839 the French government unveiled the newly created daguerreotype process as a gift "free to the world". Three years later the photographic portrait arrived in Australia with the first professional English daguerreotypist. Portraiture was now available to the middle class for the price of a guinea.

Shane Le Plastrier will give a visual survey of these early colonial photographs - ranging from the velvet and leather cased daguerreotypes and ambrotypes to the one shilling paper carte de visites of the 1860s. Drawn from South Australian and Victorian examples, his presentation will touch on the influence of their Australian setting and the colonial stories behind the image.

About the speaker

Shane Le Plastrier threw away a near completed teaching diploma to work in the mineral exploration industry including a number of years opal mining at Coober Pedy. He furthered his studies at the Adelaide Central School of Art, with limited artistic success, and until recently, served on the Art Gallery of South Australia's Foundation Council.

Ten years ago, his twin interests of mining and art combined with the finding of an 1858 ambrotype photograph of a scene on the Victorian gold fields. This discovery sparked forensic research into the fascinating area of early colonial photography, not least for the neglected stories these objects bring to light. Shane's particular expertise lies in the field of South Australian daguerreotypes and ambrotypes from 1845 to 1860, and the emergence of the carte de visite thereafter.

Cost: \$25, includes a complimentary beverage on arrival.

Book your ticket now

CANINE TIDBITS



Showing at The David Roche Foundation is the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022*, excellent exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. It would seem fitting then to include in the Canine Tidbit a portrait of a Man and his Dog.

The photograph is of David Roche with Ch Wulfreda Rhapsody, a Kerry Blue Terrier bitch imported from the United Kingdom who went on to win Best in Show at the 1959 Melbourne Royal under The Right Honourable the Earl Northesk.

This photographic portrait hangs in the Dressing 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 a serendipitous connection among several collection works.



Image: Durs Egg, *Flintlock pistol* c. 1800. Blued steel, gold, wood. TDRF 2057.

One of the great treasures of The David Roche Foundation is a flintlock pistol made by gunsmith Durs Egg c. 1800. The pistol, which is one of a pair, was commissioned by Francophile and avid sportsman, Colonel Thomas Thornton, and given to Napoléon in July 1802.

Sometime after June 1815, Thomas Thornton went to live in France, and in 1817 purchased a property, Château de Pont-sur-Seine, which he sold in 1821 to Casimir-Pierre Périer for 90,000 francs. A banker by trade with significant mining interests, Périer also held a range of political positions through the Bourbon Restoration. Between 1821 and 1822, Périer demolished and rebuilt damaged sections of the Château, and carried out further improvements in 1831.

Périer's son, Auguste Casimir, inherited the property in 1832 after sharing the estate with his brother Charles-Paul. The creation of the Troyes-Montereau railway line would cross the property, and affected his enthusiasm for it. Although he was general councillor for the canton of Romilly (1844, 1851), and a deputy for Paris (1846), he was unable to stop the railway passing through the property. Auguste received 172,000 francs in compensation, and from 1846 demolished and rebuilt the château built by his father. In 1849, the Haute-Seine canal depreciated the value of the property further, and Auguste received 75,000 francs in compensation.

The David Roche Foundation holds a portrait of Auguste Casimir-Périer, painted in oils in 1840 by Charles Matet. Périer wears the uniform of a Chargé d'Affaires, with the neck badge of the Spanish Order of Isabelle-the-Catholic and the officer's cross of the Légion d'Honneur. The painting is one of a pair that depicted Périer and his fiancée Camille Fontenilliat.

I wonder if David Roche knew how the Château de Pont-sur-Seine connected two handsome objects in his collection?

Geoff S

Further in this newsletter, read about a pastel portrait of Colonel Thomas Thornton that has recently been acquired by The David Roche Foundation. To see the remarkable flintlock pistol, portrait of Auguste Casimir-Périer, and the newly acquired portrait of Colonel Thomas Thornton, book your tour of Fermoy House today!

Book now



Image: Charles Matet, *Auguste Laurent Casimir-Périer* 1840 (detail). Oil on canvas. TDRF 2600.

EVENT

Fringe Festival 2023 The Grosvenor Ensemble



Wednesday 8 March 2023 | 6.00PM

The Grosvenor Ensemble's season at TDRF is selling fast, with two concerts now sold out! Limited tickets remain for the third concert in this series.

On Wednesday 8 March, Jonathon Glonek and international guest violinist Foo Say Ming perform thrilling works for violin duo. From classical masterpieces by Ignaz Pleyel and Jean-Marie Leclair to a rarely played gem by Louis Spohr, the program will conclude with a lively sonata by Miklós Rózsa. Both Foo and Glonek studied under renowned violinist Jascha Heifitz, who was a friend of Rózsa, and commissioned his Violin Concerto.

Book now

EVENT

Twilight Evening



Image: The Huxleys *Where have all the flowers gone* 2021 (detail), digital print on paper.

Thursday 30 March | 5.00 - 7.30PM

Join us for our first Twilight Evening of 2023!

TDRF will open late on the evening of Thursday 30 March from 5 to 7:30PM to give you an extra opportunity to see the shortlisted finalists and winners of the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022*. Curator Tim Roberts will deliver a pop-up talk in the Gallery, and a bar will be open for refreshments all evening. We welcome Melbourne-based artists The Huxleys for an exclusive performance, generously sponsored by Diana and Philippe Jaquillard.

Cost: \$20, includes exhibition entry and a complimentary beverage on arrival. Children under 12 free.

Special Performance: The Huxleys

Will and Garrett Huxley are Melbourne-based collaborative performance and visual artists. Their performance will be a surreal musical intervention combining performance, costume and absurdity.

The Huxleys are a dynamic duo of cataclysmic proportion who present camp commentary and spectacle across the visual art, performance and entertainment sectors. Their photography and performance art traverses the classifications of costume, film and recording. A visual assault of sparkle, surrealism and the absurd, The Huxleys saturate their practice and projects with a glamorous, androgynous freedom which sets out to bring some escapism and magic to everyday life.

Since 2014 The Huxleys have performed, exhibited and participated in numerous exhibitions, projects and events in Australia, and internationally in London, Berlin, Moscow and Hong Kong.

Book now

NEW ACQUISITION



Image: John Russell, *Colonel Thomas Thornton with falcon* 1785. Pastel on paper. TDRF 4048

The David Roche Foundation is delighted to welcome a pastel portrait of Colonel Thomas Thornton to the collection.

Thomas Thornton was undoubtedly one of the most flamboyant characters on the British social circuit in Georgian England. Born in 1750, Thornton was son of politician William Thornton, and shared his father's love of sports. Following his father's death in 1769 Thornton began to indulge heavily in his passions of shooting, angling, and falconry, which he undertook when he was not engaged with the 2nd West Yorkshire Militia, a regiment formerly led by his father.

A self-professed Francophile, Thornton visited France prior to the 1789 Revolution, and again in 1802 where he presented a pair of pistols to Napoléon. One of these pistols is held in TDRF collection, having been purchased by Mr. Roche at auction in 2006. In 1815, Thornton returned to France. After the Battle of Waterloo he hired the Château de Chambord and purchased an estate at Pont-sur-Seine; to edify himself he styled himself Prince de Chambord and Marquis de Pont. He sold Pont-sur-Seine to French political figure Casimir-Pierre Périer in 1821, and died in Paris in 1823.

In this portrait, Thornton is depicted as a dandy wearing a smart teal coat and matching hat richly trimmed with a ribbon and feather cockade. A falcon wearing an embellished hood perches on his gloved left hand, a reference to Thornton's interest in falconry. The portrait was furnished by John Russell, a celebrated

pastellist who was appointed a Member of the Royal Academy in 1788, and appointed Crayon Painter to King George III, Queen Charlotte, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of York in 1790. In the 1790s Russell became particularly interested in astronomy, and in 1805 and 1806 drew highly detailed views of the moon while looking through a telescope provided by William Herschel.

See this portrait and many more treasures on your next tour of Fermoy House.

Book now

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

GIFT SHOP

The David Roche Foundation has a wide range of beautiful products on sale which make perfect gifts or a treat for yourself. Here are some of our favourites.



This umbrella is not only a visual delight for the most discerning art lover, but it's also tough, lightweight and compact! Cover included.
Only \$30.00

Buy Now



Our selection of greetings cards and postcards includes a reproduction of one of our most popular portraits, *Bao, A young African man, c.1840*.
Only \$5.00 each!

Buy Now



IN STORE ONLY

Just last week we received a selection of men's socks! Designed in Melbourne by Bamboozia, these bamboo socks are not just comfortable but also show off your creative style. Visit us again soon, because these are sure to sell quickly!

Only \$17.00 per pair

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.

We now post internationally!

Visit the shop

COLLECTION

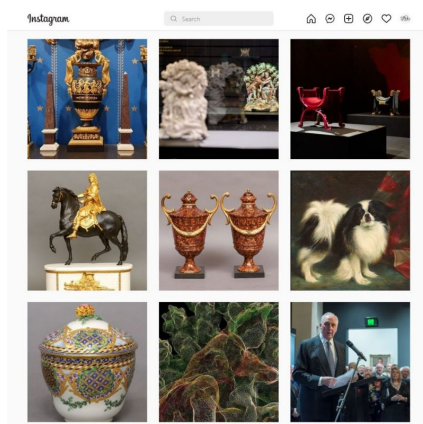
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

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



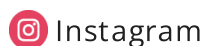
Search the collection

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

Adam Ferguson's powerful portrait of Guatemalan refugees Carlos Soyos and his son Emerson has stirred the hearts of many visitors to the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2022*. To explore other photographs in Ferguson's *Migrantes* series and other bodies of work, take a look at his [website](#).

March 8 marks International Women's Day, a celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and to highlight issues of gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. In 2020 the National Gallery of Australia launched *Know My Name*, an initiative to celebrate the contribution of women in Australia's visual arts sector. Check out the [Know My Name website](#) to learn more about the initiative and its outcomes from 2020-2022.



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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.

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