
CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 41



Image: TDRF Chair Julian Bickersteth, The Honourable Andrea Michaels MP, and TDRF Museum Director Robert Reason at the opening of *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis*. Photo: Neil Ward

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Last week our latest exhibition *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis* was opened by The Honourable Andrea Michaels MP. We are proud to be able to present twelve of the twenty tapestries in this series, the largest ever showing of these remarkable works. I'd like to thank the National Gallery of Australia for loaning the tapestries, sketches, pastels, and lithographs that make up this contemplative exhibition. A range of programmes are organised in conjunction with the exhibition. This month, historian Margaret Pont speaks to the story of St Francis, and how Boyd resonated with the Saint's ethos and actions. Tickets are selling quickly, so book today to avoid disappointment.

On Thursday 4 May our Friends at Studio Vino help us *Paint Your Partner Picasso Style*. An experienced instructor will lead you step by step through the process of portrait painting, and all materials are provided. As a part of SA History Festival, on Thursday 11 May Stuart Symons immerses us in the style of *Mad Men*-era Adelaide with his talk *Modernist Adelaide: An Architectural Revolution!* Find the links to book these two great events further in this newsletter. Saturday 13 May will see Melbourne Street come alive for the first Meander Market of 2023. It's a perfect day to visit the precinct, so be sure to stop into TDRF to see the exhibition and browse our store for Mothers Day gifts, or see what wonderful product we have available in our online store.

As the end of financial year approaches, I remind all our supporters that The David Roche Foundation is an endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and will help TDRF reach its full potential and enhance the cultural life of South Australia. In particular we are seeking support for a catalogue to accompany our upcoming Wedgwood exhibition. Please [follow this link](#) to read more about this project and others we are currently working on.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

EXHIBITION



Image: Arthur Boyd (designer), Tapeçarias de Portalegre (manufacturer), *St Francis when young turning aside* 1972. High warp tapestry. Collection: National Gallery of Australia, purchased 1975. Arthur Boyd's work reproduced with the permission of Bundanon Trust.

ARTHUR BOYD: THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS

Celebrated Australian artist Arthur Boyd and his vision of the endearing medieval Italian saint, St. Francis of Assisi, comes to Adelaide from the collection of the National Gallery of Australia.

Rarely seen, a selection of Boyd's large, and spectacular tapestries illustrating the life of the saint are joined by sketches, pastels and lithographs exploring the universal human conditions of love and pain, sacrifice and compassion. Only at The David Roche Foundation.

Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis

28 April - 2 September 2023

Tuesday to Saturday 10AM - 4PM

No booking required.

\$15 adult. \$12 concession.

\$11 TDRF Member.

Children under 12 free.

PRINCIPAL LENDER



EVENT

Studio Vino Paint Your Partner Like Picasso®



Join the team from Studio Vino as we *Paint Your Partner Picasso Style*. Canvas, paint and brushes are provided as well as an experienced instructor who leads you step by step through the process for an unforgettable evening of painting, sipping and socialising! If you don't want to follow the class feel free to paint anything you'd like, the canvas is yours to keep. Come with friends or come on your own and make new friends! No experience is required.

Limited parking available on-site.
Wheelchair accessible.

When: Thursday 4 May 2023 | 6.30PM [arrive 6.15PM]

Cost: \$57

Price includes all materials including a 40x50cm take-home canvas. Drinks available for purchase from the bar. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the event start time.

No access to Fermoy house or the exhibition galleries during this event.

[Book your tickets now](#)

EVENT

Modernist Adelaide: An Architectural Revolution!



Image: Adelaide Boys High School. Photograph: Stuart Symons

Thursday 11 May 2023 6:00PM

Adelaide was fertile ground for architectural experimentation in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s, when a new breed of forward-thinking architects redefined the city's skyline and streetscapes by embracing the aesthetic, technological and social aspirations of modernist architecture. Join award-winning historian Stuart Symons, Founder of Modernist Adelaide, for this engaging talk through time to discover the mid-century jet-age of *Mad Men*-era Adelaide.

About the speaker

Stuart Symons is a mid-century architecture enthusiast and founder of Modernist Adelaide, which celebrates Adelaide's 1940s-70s architecture through tours, events, online and his book, *Modernist Adelaide: 100 Buildings 1940s-1970s*. Stuart was awarded the City of Adelaide Prize Commendation 2021 and South Australian Emerging Historian of the Year 2019.

Cost: Adults: \$20 | Concessions: \$18 | TDRF Members \$16
(all tickets include a complimentary beverage on arrival)

Book your tickets now

A South Australia's History
Festival Event



EVENT

St Francis seen through the Eyes
of Arthur Boyd: A Universal Vision



Image: Arthur Boyd (designer), Tapeçarias de Portalegre (manufacturer), *St Francis being beaten by his father* 1973. High warp tapestry. Collection: National Gallery of Australia, purchased 1975. Arthur Boyd's work reproduced with the permission of Bundanon Trust.

Thursday 18 May 2023 6:00PM

Arthur Boyd's examination of St Francis of Assisi took an original and radical interpretation. He looks at the saint's childhood formation, his relationship to his followers, and indeed questioning whether a saint need followers. This lecture will present a brief account of the medieval St Francis, his terrain, and his followers, before exploring Boyd's extensive production of drawings, pastels, lithographs and tapestries. Arthur Boyd's resulting legacy of the gift of Bundanon to the Australian people exemplifies the belief in non-materialism and a care for nature. Both Arthur and Francis were men of vision who shared "a hope for the good."

About the speaker

Margaret Pont has a MA from Melbourne University, where she completed her thesis on Arthur Boyd's St. Francis of Assisi works. She is author of *Arthur Boyd and Saint Francis of Assisi* (Macmillan, 2004), and assisted Professor Emeritus Margaret Manion AO with the curation of the exhibition of 'The Life of Saint Francis' tapestries at Newman College, University of Melbourne in 2009. She has collaborated with the National Gallery of Australia and Bundanon Trust for various public programmes and publications. Most recently Pont has undertaken research into early Christianity and Franciscanism, drawing upon resources at Sacro Convento, Assisi and the Vatican Library. The contribution and continuation of Italian spiritual values continues to be central to her research.

Cost: General: \$25 | TDRF Members \$22.50
(all tickets include a complimentary beverage on arrival)

[Book your tickets now](#)

CANINE TIDBITS



Image: David Roche and Champion Fermoy Holy Night at the Adelaide Royal Show, 1982.

Life at Fermoy during this time of the year has always been full of energy. It is the Show Season which includes the Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne Royal Exhibitions. Much time and effort is taken in appraising the dogs selected to be exhibited at these shows. Nearer to the shows, Mr Roche would begin to make his choices of the Kerry Blues, as usually only one Kerry attended the Royal shows. It was an exciting and sometimes stressful time, but being involved especially with the Afghans was always wonderful.

It is poignant remembering shared times with Mr Roche.

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Geoff S introduces a plate from a significant Chelsea Porcelain service.



Image: Chelsea Porcelain Factory, *Plate from the Mecklenburg-Strelitz service* 1762. Soft-paste porcelain, polychrome enamel, gilding. TDRF 1924.

The David Roche Foundation has a single plate from the Mecklenburg-Strelitz service ordered in 1762 by King George III and Queen Charlotte (delivered 1765)

from the Chelsea Porcelain Factory at a cost of £1200 (around £315,000 today). The service is the best known of Chelsea's services, and has attracted attention ever since it was made.

The plate at TDRF features raised scrollwork moulding picked out in gilding. Mazarine blue grounds are decorated with gilt butterflies and moths with swags of flowers in between. In the centre is a large exotic bird in a landscape.

The service was a gift from the Queen to her brother, Duke Adolphus Frederick IV of Mecklenberg-Strelitz (1738 – 1794). It marked a change in the custom of using silver to furnish dining tables by including ceramic candelabra and a large centrepiece although retaining metalwork shapes. Perhaps not surprising, given the manager of the Chelsea Porcelain Factory at the time was the silversmith Nicholas Sprimont (1716-71).

The Royal Collection in England has 137 pieces from this service that remained in Strelitz until 1919 when it was purchased by British art dealer, Sir Joseph Duveen, followed by Bond Street dealer, James Oakes who presented it to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, 1948 for her Silver Wedding anniversary. They can be seen at Buckingham Palace. The National Gallery of Victoria, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London also have pieces from the service.

Noted Chelsea historian, Elizabeth Adams, called the service 'the very triumph of rococo art'.

Geoff S

Search the collection online to discover many hidden treasures collected by David Roche.

Search the collection

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Image: Wedgwood Factory, *Set of seven cameos* c. 1820. Black basalt earthenware. TDRF 1434

Throughout his lifetime, David Roche collected several groups of cameo portraits and medallions inspired by the antique. Among these are seven portrait plaques produced by British ceramic manufacturer Wedgwood in their iconic basalt stoneware.

Recent research into the cameos has identified the represented personalities. Portraits of Philippus Epiphanes, King of Syria, Polyxena, daughter of Priam, Mausolus, King of Caria, Ariadne, Alexander Epirota, and Dido were a part of Wedgwood's series 'Kings and Queens of Asia Minor, Greece, &c.' A portrait of Quintilius came from Wedgwood's 'Sequel of Emperors from Nerva to Constantine the Great inclusive' series. Each medallion measures 7cm high by 6cm wide.

In the late 1990s the cameos were displayed on the Green carpeted landing of the Roman Room, mounted on a green fabric backing surrounded by a round gilt frame. In 2007 the cameos were remounted on their current a faux porphyry backing and set in a Regency-style gilt frame. Today the cameos can be found in David Roche's bedroom alongside other cameos and portrait medallions by Wedgwood, James Tassie, and other manufacturers.

Book a tour of Fermoy House today to see these cameos and many other treasures collected by David Roche.

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.



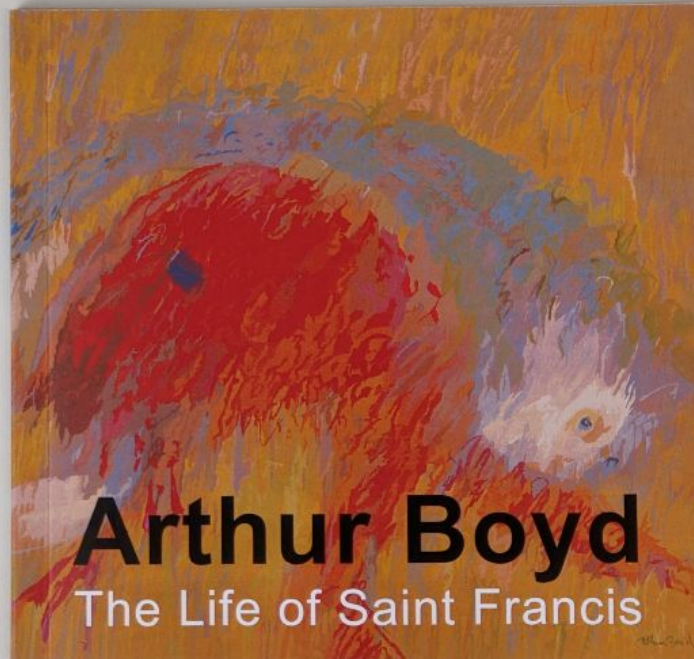
Need a Mother's Day gift for the mum who has everything? Give her the experience of seeing David Roche's collection. A gift unlike any other. From \$20

Buy Now



Our recently acquired portrait of Colonel Thomas Thornton is now available in our selection of greetings cards, which feature highlights of the TDRF collection. Only \$5.00 each!

Browse the range



Enrich your experience of *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis* with an exhibition catalogue. Written by Robert Reason and featuring over 40 illustrations, this is the perfect take-home from your visit to *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis*.

Only \$18.00

Buy Now

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

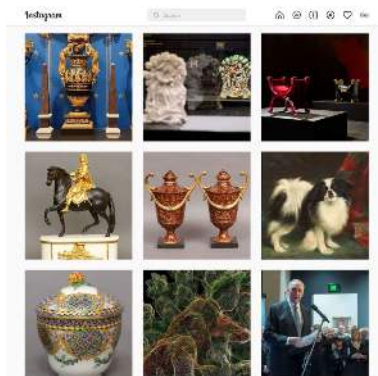
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

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.

 Facebook

 Instagram

LINKS WE LOVE

The National Gallery, London is about to open their own exhibition exploring the life and stories surrounding St Francis of Assisi. *Saint Francis of Assisi* draws together works of art from the 13th century to today and is on display in London from 6 May - 30 July. [Click here](#) for more detail on the exhibition and to see a selection of events related to the exhibition, many of which facilitate online participation.



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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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