

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 42



Image: Installation view, *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis*. This Adelaide-exclusive exhibition is on display at The David Roche Foundation until Saturday 2 September 2023.

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

As the weather cools down in Adelaide, we think of the comforts of home and when David Roche was in residence it was often a busy period of finalising travel plans and deciding what potential acquisitions could enhance his collection at Fermoy House. Maintained at a comfortable year-round temperature David's home today with its lush interiors, splendid curtains, and incomparable abundance of art is a perfect way to escape the winter blues and enjoy the treasures stored within. We recently celebrated our seventh anniversary on 3 June and a couple of weeks prior acknowledged National Volunteers Week, our wonderful volunteers have made an immense difference since we opened our doors in 2016.

Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis is receiving rave reviews with the tapestries exceeding all expectations. This is the largest ever showing of these remarkable and monumental tapestries and the only opportunity to consider his creative genius across sketches, pastels and lithographs which together make an unforgettable experience as Boyd delves into the life of the inspirational free thinker, St Francis. Such is the international importance of Boyd's St Francis series that six lithographs have been included in The National Gallery's (London) current exhibition *Saint Francis of Assisi*.

If you're able to support the arts in Australia as the end of financial year approaches please consider The David Roche Foundation so that we can grow and expand our offerings through exhibitions, lectures, events and publications. We have now raised nearly \$10K toward our Wedgwood catalogue to accompany our upcoming exhibition in September. We need your help to raise a further \$5K if you can assist, all donations over \$2 are tax deductible and donations over \$500 are eligible for acknowledgment in the catalogue. Please [follow this link](#) to read more about this project and others we are currently working on.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

ARTHUR BOYD THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS



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.

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

Until 2 September 2023
Tuesday to Saturday
10AM - 4PM

No booking required.

\$15 Adult. \$12 Concession.
\$11 TDRF Member.
Children under 12 free.

PRINCIPAL LENDER



Guided Tours
Thursdays 11.30AM
[Book your tour here](#)

'TALES FROM THE LOOM'
MAKING ARTHUR BOYD'S NEW
PARLIAMENT HOUSE TAPESTRY



Image: An in progress photograph of *Great Hall Tapestry*, 1988, Arthur Boyd AC OBE, woven by Leonie Bessant, Sue Carstairs, Irene Creedon, Robyn Daw, Joanne Feder, Owen Hammond, Kate Hutchinson, Pamela Joyce, Peta Meredith, Robyn Mountcastle, Jennifer Sharpe, Joy Smith, Iain Young, wool and cotton, 9.18 x 19.9m. Photo courtesy of the Australian Tapestry Workshop.

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023 6:00PM

In 1988 Melbourne's Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) completed Arthur Boyd's tapestry for the New Parliament House in Canberra. Leonie Bessant, the weaver in charge of the tapestry, will talk about working with Arthur and the technical and artistic challenges of the massive and exciting project. The ATW is the only workshop of its kind in Australia and one of a handful in the world dedicated to the creation of hand-woven tapestries. Leonie will also present a selection of other projects and tapestries from the 500 plus works made by the ATW since 1976, which hang in significant public and private collections both nationally and internationally.

About the speaker

Leonie Bessant has been weaving since her childhood, and started at the Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) in 1980. In addition to weaving she has designed many ATW tapestries, most notably the suite of six large works for Melbourne Airport. Between working at the ATW on selected projects Leonie has done lots of other things including; a Masters at the Royal College of Art in London, headed the textile department at Edith Cowan University, exhibited internationally, and had an organic veggie farm and business as a founding member of Victoria's farmer market movement. Currently she splits her time between weaving and being a psychologist.

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 Aust. Ch. Rynestone Cowboy, late 1970s. Photograph by Barkleigh Shute.

As a collector and an All Breeds Dog Judge, David Roche was fortunate to travel extensively. This enabled him to meet a range of people, some with expert knowledge of art and antiques and others distinguished in the world of exhibiting and breeding purebred dogs. In California, David met and became lifelong friends with Kay Finch, a talented sculptress and the owner of the famous Crown Crest Kennel. Over the years a number of Crown Crest Afghan Hounds were imported by David for his Fermoy Kennels.

One of the Crown Crest girls to arrive in Adelaide was a feisty bitch named Crown Crest Maya de Mexico (imp USA). Later an Australian Champion, in 1976 Maya was bred to Ch Coastwind Holyman (imp USA) producing a beautiful white male, Ch Fermoy Rynestone Cowboy, illustrated here.

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Angela B beholds some exquisite works of art outside Fermoy House.



Image: Italy, *Pair of lions* c. 1840. Marble. TDRF 2670.

At the eastern end of the TDRF garden a bronze lion wall fountain gurgles into a mosaic pond that is flanked by a pair of lions of distinguished lineage. Created in Italy c. 1840, the marble lions complement the many fine neoclassical objects that originated in seventeenth century Italy and France that are displayed throughout the house. They reflect David Roche's interest in English aesthetics and sensibility, particularly the acquisitions of British aristocrats during their Grand Tours of Europe in the eighteenth

and early nineteenth centuries.

The original lions were created by the Neoclassical sculptor Antonio Canova (1752-1822) as part of Canova's Monument to Pope Clement XIII. Considered a masterpiece in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, the white marble monument was created in 1783-1792 and features the Pope kneeling in prayer, with the two lions carved in travertine at the base. The vigilant lion is said to represent the energetic work of the Pope while the sleeping lion symbolises his moderation.

In 1873, fascinated by Canova's sculptures, the 6th Duke of Devonshire commissioned Italian artists, Rinaldo Rinaldi (1793-1873) and Francesco Benaglia (1787-1846) to copy the Vatican's lion statues for Chatsworth House, his home in Derbyshire, England. Rinaldo's Sleeping Lion and Benaglia's Crouching Lion weigh 3.5 tonnes each and are prominently displayed in Chatsworth's Sculpture Gallery.

David inevitably saw the lions in his visits to the Vatican and Chatsworth and acquired these scaled down versions to grace his own neoclassically inspired garden.

Angela B

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

[Search the collection](#)

FROM THE ARCHIVES



A tour of Fermoy House doesn't just showcase works of art collected by David Roche throughout his lifetime, but includes an array of soft furnishings and interior treatments. From distinguished carpets designed by US-based Interior Designer Lewis Wallack to sumptuous window treatments by Christine Jeffery of Sydney, the interiors of the house speak to David's confident sense of style, and his appreciation of colour and pattern.

Recently, while sorting and cataloguing the archive, TDRF volunteers found a number of samples relating to the Zoffany *Oak Garland* wallpaper installed in the Main Bedroom. David planned the refurbishment of this room in 2001, and desired the *Oak Garland* pattern in a colourway not produced by the firm at the time. Included among the samples are an original sample of the paper, and a selection of samples that more closely reflect the colour that David had in mind. A decision on the final colour and density of the gold stippled pattern was made in November 2001, and the wallpaper was installed in Fermoy House in 2002.

Book a tour today to see treasures collected by David Roche within the fascinating Fermoy House interiors.

[Book now](#)

MEMBERSHIP



Are you a regular visitor to The David Roche Foundation House Museum? Even if you're not but are keen to support the work of the Foundation, then becoming a TDRF Member would be the ideal thing for you!

TDRF Members enable the Foundation to maintain David Roche's exquisite collection, present world-class exhibitions, program lectures with expert guest speakers and to fulfil its vision as a centre of excellence and a leader in decorative arts in Australia. By becoming a TDRF Member, you will meet like-minded enthusiasts who share your passion for art and history, and receive many great benefits including:

- 25% discount off full price house tour ticket (4 times per year)
- 25% discount off full price exhibition entry fee
- 10% discount off full price purchases in the shop (this excludes online shop)
- 10% discount off full price TDRF Lecture Series tickets
- Invitations to exclusive tours and special events
- Advance notice of TDRF programs and events
- Members only events & trips

Become a TDRF Member

To become a TDRF Member, please call into the museum or download the membership application form here www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/

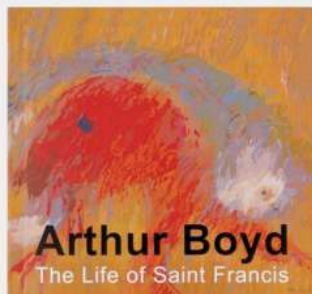
Please return your completed form by post or by dropping it off at the museum.

For further information please e-mail memberships@rochefoundation.org.au or phone 08 8267 3677.

[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.



Enrich your experience of *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis* with an exhibition catalogue, written by Robert Reason and featuring over 40 illustrations!

Only \$18.00



This winter, don't get caught out in the rain! Be prepared with one of our beautiful umbrellas, featuring designs inspired by works in the collection.

From \$30.00

[Buy Now](#)

[Browse the range](#)



IN STORE ONLY

An extraordinary selection of cushions by Timorous Beasties are currently available at the TDRF store! Made in Scotland from the finest materials, these cushions will add a touch of vibrant luxury to any interior.

Priced from \$155.00 - \$235.00

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](#)

EVENTS AT A HOUSE NEAR YOU

Our friends at Carrick Hill and The Cedars offer wonderful experiences and events. Here's what's on:

CARRICK HILL

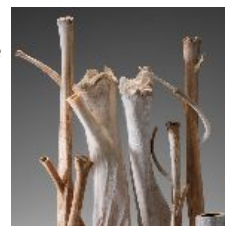
Catherine Truman, *The Arrangements: assembling nature*

Closing Friday 30 June

Following a year-long residency at Carrick Hill, Catherine Truman draws on the intimate nature of the site and its relationship with art to investigate the impact of climate change and the fragility of the natural world. The new works are integrated into the domestic spaces of the house positioned alongside Carrick Hill's unique art collection.

Throughout the exhibition the Wall Gallery, originally an attic, has been transformed into *The Assembly Room*, an artist studio. Here, visitors will find a work table, notebooks, sketches, texts, experiments, images and film. Catherine Truman will be in residence from 2:00 – 4:30 pm on Friday 30 June.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



THE CEDARS

Winter Wonder Garden Talk

Saturday 10 June, 2pm

Join esteemed Cedars' curator and garden expert Allan Campbell for the Winter Wonder Garden Talk on June 10th at 2pm. Wander amongst the beauty of the unique and authentic Artist's Garden and appreciate the bare tracery of the many mature deciduous trees in winter mode. Engage in a rich exploration of Heysen garden history, and learn about the lasting influence the gardens and broader property were on the art of Hans and Nora Heysen. Your ticket includes a voucher for a cup of tea or coffee in the new Cedars

Café and Tea Rooms.

[BOOK NOW ONLINE!](#)

COLLECTION

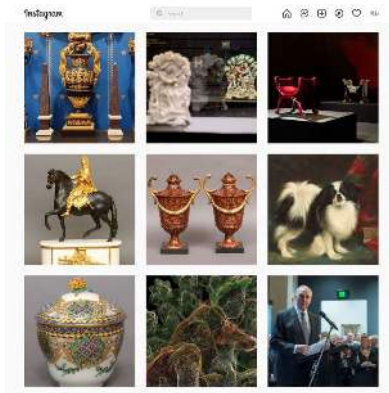
**Did you know that many of the items in
The David Roche Collection are available
to view online?**

*Use our collection search to find out more
about your favourite piece or discover
something new.*



Search the collection

KEEP IN TOUCH



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**



**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.

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