

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 46



Image: See Wedgwood unlike any that you've seen before in our new exhibition *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to our latest edition of Club Fermoy which is packed with new events, fascinating stories from the collection and our very special exhibition *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*. With over 240 works, including rare items from David Roche's collection and curated by TDRF's curator Timothy Roberts, *Wedgwood* will make you reconsider this iconic brand and its many achievements. If you want to learn more why not join one of our guided tours of the exhibition each Thursday or purchase a copy of the extensively illustrated and beautifully presented exhibition catalogue.

Later in October Amanda Dunsmore joins us from the National Gallery of Victoria for an evening talk on Josiah Wedgwood and in early November, Shirleene Robinson AM presents on the history of Queer South Australia as part of the Feast Festival programme for 2023. These insightful and thought provoking talks will book out quickly. Further information on these and other events can be found on the following pages. The Today's Treasure segment looks at an exquisite micromosaic box of a Gordon Setter and From the Archives presents new provenance findings on an important Wedgwood purchase by David. Happy reading.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

NOW OPEN

WEDGWOOD

Master Potter to the Universe



Image: Wedgwood (Britain, established 1759), *Teapot* c. 1810, Rosso antico stoneware, black bassalt stoneware sprigging. Courtesy Etruria Antiques Gallery, Melbourne

In 1769, Josiah Wedgwood famously declared his intention to become 'Vase Maker General to the Universe'. Experimentation and innovation brought Wedgwood's name and product into homes worldwide, and continue to be the defining features of this internationally celebrated ceramic manufacturer.

240 works sourced from Australian public and private collections will evidence Wedgwood's diversity. See historically celebrated pieces from the Frog Service, created for Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia; the Portland Vase, based on the ancient Roman original in the British Museum; and the Sydney Cove Medallions, made from Australian clay in 1789. Lovers of mid-century and modern design will relish the work of Keith Murray, Norman Wilson, and Australian studio potters Michael Dillon and John Dermer. From familiar white on blue jasper to the glittering colours of Fairyland Lustre, this exhibition promises to surprise, enchant, and delight.

This Adelaide-exclusive exhibition is the first Australian survey of Wedgwood in nearly 30 years. Explore 265 years of history, experience iconic works of art, and be prepared for the the unexpected.

From 23 September 2023
Tuesday to Saturday
10AM – 4PM

[Purchase your ticket online](#)
Tickets also available at the door

\$12 Adult. \$10 Concession.
\$9 TDRF Member.
Children under 12 free.

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

EVENT



PAINT POPPIES IN VASE AT TDRF!

Thursday 5 October 6.30-8.30pm

Join the team from Studio Vino to paint, sip and relax the evening away! The featured painting, *Poppies in Vase* is inspired by the ceramic masterpieces on display in *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*. Canvas, paint and brushes are provided as well as an experienced instructor who leads you step by step through the process. 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.

This Thursday, 5 October 2023 | 6.30PM [arrive 6.15PM]

\$58

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 now](#)

EVENT



Image: Wedgwood (Britain established 1759); John Flaxman Jr (Britain 1755–1826), modeller, *Hercules in the garden of Hesperides* 1785–1800, white on blue jasper. National Gallery of Victoria. Purchased 1877

JOSIAH WEDGWOOD AND THE NEOCLASSICAL IDEAL

Thursday 19 October 6.00-7.15pm

Josiah Wedgwood was one of the greatest innovators of the eighteenth century. A self-taught man of prodigious energy and vision, Wedgwood has been acclaimed as a champion of English Neoclassical taste as much as a pioneer potter, industrialist, founder of the abolitionist movement and marketeer. He named his factory 'Etruria' after the Italian region where many ancient Greek vases were believed to have been made and the factory's Neoclassical program was explicit from the outset. During the eighteenth century Wedgwood's success burgeoned through his development of creamware, transfer printed wares, black basalt wares and his most famous innovation, jasper ware, perfected after a total of more than 5,000 recorded experiments. This lecture will look at the taste for Neoclassicism in Britain that arose in the 1760s and Josiah Wedgwood's critical role in developing and promoting it.

About the Speaker

Amanda Dunsmore is Senior Curator, International Decorative Arts and Antiquities, at the National Gallery of Victoria. She has a background in Egyptology and worked for several years as a ceramic specialist in Egypt. Her research interests include eighteenth-century English architecture and interiors, in particular the work of James Wyatt, and early 20th century design and the rise of modernism. She has curated numerous exhibitions including *Bugatti: Carlo, Rembrandt, Ettore, Jean* (2009), *Japonisme: Japan and the Birth of Modern Art* (2018) and *Spectrum: An Exploration of Colour* (2021-22).

Thursday 19 October 2023 | 6.00 - 7.15PM

General: \$25 | TDRF Member: \$22.50

Price includes one beverage on arrival. No access to Fermoy House or the exhibition galleries during this event.

[Book now](#)

EVENT



VOICES FROM THE 'QUIET REVOLUTION'

Thursday 9 November 6.00-7.15pm

From the 1970s onwards, LGBTIQ+ people in Australia have been increasingly visible in driving forward social change. Queer South Australians have been at the forefront of much of this transformation. From the decriminalisation of homosexuality through to public visibility, HIV/AIDS activism, marriage equality and a greater awareness of transgender rights, change is considerable. This talk draws on a range of original oral history interviews to consider what it has been like for different generations to have lived through a social revolution without comparison. How did queer activists set about to change Australian society? What was different about South Australia? And how can oral history interviews with different generations provide unique emotional connections, move us forward and inspire us?

About the Speaker

Dr Shirleene Robinson AM is a historian, academic, author and curator who has published extensively on LGBTIQ history and HIV/AIDS history. In 2022, Shirleene was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to the LGBTIQ community, to marriage equality, and to history.

This event is proudly presented by The David Roche Foundation as a part of Feast Festival 2023



Thursday 9 November 2023 | 6.00-7.15PM

General: \$25 | Concession: \$20 | TDRF Member: \$20

Price includes one beverage on arrival. No access to Fermoy House or the exhibition galleries during this event.

[Book now](#)

CANINE TIDBITS

Spring was always a very busy time of the year with many visitors to Fermoy Kennels, next to David Roche's North Adelaide home, Fermoy House. It brings back memories of the dogs were being prepared for the Show Ring.

All the kennel staff are incredibly proud to have had a part in presenting the Fermoy dogs. Mr Roche's first love were the Kerries and he was a perfectionist in their presentation. A favourite Kerry was the 1980s homebred Ch Fermoy Liffey. Liffey was an exceptional show dog with a wonderful temperament and a beautiful coat. The photo shown here is Liffey winning Best in Show under Mrs Phyllis Wolfish from Canada.



TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Leslie S draws our eye to a detailed micromosaic.



Image: Workshop of Filippo Puglieschi (Italy active 1800-1840), mosaicist, *Snuff box (Tawney, a Gordon Setter)* c.

This tortoiseshell snuff box made around the year 1825 is set with a micromosaic framed in gold. It is attributed to the workshop of Filippo Puglieschi, an Italian mosaicist active from 1800 to 1840.

The micromosaic consists of millimetre-sized coloured glass pieces or 'tiles' called tesserae, which are individually laid with tweezers into an underlying adhesive base. The exquisite refinement of the workmanship which elicits the wonder of visitors is evidenced by the absence of gaps. The finest mosaicists could accomplish a density of 5000 tesserae per square inch, a phenomenal artistic achievement.

The endearing Gordon Setter depicted in the micromosaic is 'Tawney', a dog owned by William Cavendish, 6th Duke of Devonshire. The image is based on Johann Wenzel Peter's 1819 portrait of Tawney, which is now displayed in Chatsworth House, Derbyshire. Several micromosaicists reproduced this portrait, including Antonio Aguati, an artist of stellar reputation who revolutionised the creation of micromosaics through the use of new shapes that were curved or twisting. This was a marked improvement from the simple square-shaped tesserae in the earliest years of the craft. Furthermore, by fusing several glass filaments he could achieve multiple colours within the same tessera. Tesserae could now more realistically depict texture for hair, feathers and fur, as seen on the grass blades and Tawney's coat in the Roche example.

The faithfulness associated with dogs made these a perfect gift to declare affection for the recipient. Variations of this design can also be found in other materials including textiles.

Leslie S

Book a tour of Fermoy house today to see this treasure and many more!

[Book now](#)

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Image: Wedgwood & Bentley (Britain 1769-1780), *Pair of vases and covers* c. 1780, white terracotta, polychrome enamel imitating marble, gilding. TDRF 2567.

In 2006 David Roche purchased this pair of Wedgwood & Bentley stone effect vases and covers through international art auction firm Christie's. The pieces had been consigned among over 160 examples of neoclassical art and furniture from a private collection on the West Coast of the United States.

Provenance research has revealed that these vases were formerly owned by art historian Richard Wunder. Born in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, Wunder embarked on studies in art history through the 1940s and 1950s, attaining his PhD in 1955. From 1964-1968 he served the Smithsonian as Curator of Painting and Sculpture for the National Collection of Fine Art, and was Director of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design from 1968-70. He later worked as president of appraisals and estates for Christie, Manson & Woods International.

Upon his retirement in 1990, Wunder moved from New York to La Jolla California and built his dream home. Within the neoclassical edifice of Wunder's Villa San Maurizio was a treasure trove of eighteenth and nineteenth century furniture and decorative arts, as well as an impressive collection of British art pottery, particularly works by Pilkington's Lancastrian Pottery.

Upon his death in 2002, Wunder's 4,500-volume strong library was donated to Hope College, Michigan; and his research files on 16th century Italian painter and architect, Gian Paolo Panini were donated to the Frick Collection.

Book your ticket to Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe to see these urns, and many other treasures!

[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

You can now join the membership online by visiting www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/

Alternatively, please call into the museum or download the membership application form [here](#).

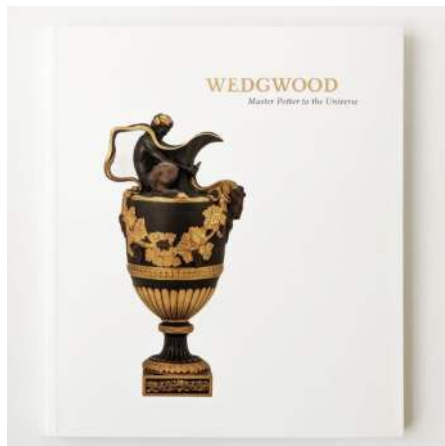
Please return your completed form by post or by dropping it off at the museum.

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.



Enrich your experience of *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe* with our 128 page, illustrated exhibition catalogue. **Only \$35!**

Buy Now



We're so glad our puppies greetings cards are back in stock! Image taken from Walter Hunt's *Meal time*, 1898. **\$15 for a pack of 5!**

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

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

Spring Program

Carrick Hill will come alive this Spring with an exciting events program. The House museum will be 'In Bloom' with a floral exhibition featuring a series of contemporary floral installations and sculptures created in dialogue with the Hayward's renowned collection of artwork and furniture. Created as part of Adelaide's Nature Festival, *Nature and the Home*, this is a perfect fit for Carrick Hill. Our Gardens will host a series of art & nature themed family workshops throughout the school holidays.



'In Bloom' with Floral Designer in residence Sky Allen of Arcadia aquatic: September 30 – 15 October. *Adelaide Mid-Century Moderns* exhibition closing 15 October.

Exhibition entry included in House Admission.

[DISCOVER EVENT PROGRAM AND BOOK HERE](#)

The National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh: The Evolution of an 18th Century Irish Garden

Friday 6 October 2023, 5:30PM \$25pp

Join Seamus O'Brien, Head Gardener of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland at Carrick Hill as he traces the evolution of the 18th century garden to what it is today.

This event raises funds for the Australian Museum of Gardening at Carrick Hill.

[BOOK HERE](#)

THE CEDARS

Bloom: Nora Heysen's Art and Garden
Spring 2023 to Autumn 2024

Our brand new exhibition, *Bloom: Nora Heysen's Art and Garden* displays a selection of drawings and paintings from the collection of The Nora Heysen Foundation. Nora Heysen grew up at The Cedars with the family's garden and the Adelaide Hills landscape to explore. The close Heysen family unit planted and nurtured the garden, enjoying the fruit and flowers that were part of each season. Nora's earliest still life subjects were found right here in The Cedars garden. This exhibition of still life fruits and flowers in her original studio celebrates a key subject that impassioned Nora Heysen throughout her life, and demonstrates fully her love of artistic expression and the beauty of the garden.

[BOOK A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CEDARS](#)



School Holiday Art Class: Nature's Mandalas

Thursday 5 October 2023, 10.00AM-Noon

Celebrate spring, re-connect with nature and nurture your creative spirit in this two hour workshop. Perfect for a technology break in the school holidays and inspired by the land art movement and artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, nature mandalas are a popular way of creating beauty and practicing mindfulness in a way that is gentle and kind to the environment. Using flowers, leaves and other natural treasures, artist and teacher Jane Mant will guide you in creating beautiful sculptures and arrangements in a nurturing, natural environment.

[BOOK NOW](#)

COLLECTION

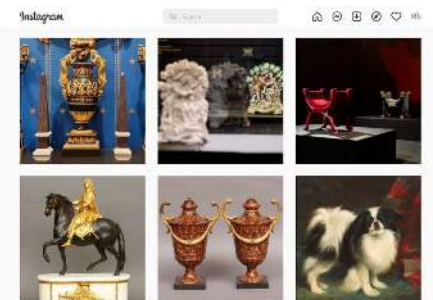
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

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.





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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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