

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 50



All that glitters in Fermoy House is gold, in this 50th 'golden' edition of Club Fermoy!

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to the 50th 'golden' edition of Club Fermoy and our favourite colour! Mad March has descended upon Adelaide so when you're ready for a break from the city centre why not visit The David Roche Foundation and enjoy our garden, gallery, and fabulous art collection in North Adelaide. At the moment you can tour Fermoy House and visit *Quilts: The Fabric of War*, an exhibition offering unique insights into military personnel from centuries past. Learn how they channelled their creative energy and skills into making amazing quilts from brightly coloured military fabrics. The topic is brought to life by renowned quilt collector and author, Annette Gero, and the accompanying publication further examines the international context of these rare intarsia quilts.

There is plenty to read in this issue and in a few weeks time we welcome Lindie Ward from Sydney, who will speak to us about the Venice Quilt and the extraordinary story that was uncovered during the research for the exhibition. Enjoy this month's feature on Ch. Fermoy Holy Honey, one of David's many award-winning Afghans, as well as a large citrine snuff box that has pride of place in the Yellow Drawing Room. You can also take advantage of a ticket giveaway thanks to the generosity of Alliance Française

and the 35th French Film Festival starting later in March!

Enjoy Adelaide's beautiful autumn weather and for those readers interstate or overseas, the next couple of months are the perfect time to visit.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

CURRENT EXHIBITION

Quilts

The Fabric of War

1760 - 1900

The Annette Gero Collection



Image: Visit us and explore this remarkable collection of quilts, many of which have not been exhibited before.

Immerse yourself in the mesmerising world of historical quilts in this captivating exhibition, showcasing unseen treasures from Annette Gero's private collection, acquired both in Australia and overseas. See extraordinary geometric patterns, exotic animals, biblical tales, and the intricate depiction of the Venetian state galley, all intricately woven into these quilts. Crafted by men using vivid military fabrics from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, these rare patchwork quilts have a rich story to tell. Whether sewn during military service or after returning home, these fascinating quilts bear witness to the Prussian, Napoleonic, and Crimean wars, and British India.

Don't miss this Adelaide-exclusive opportunity to journey through history via the art of quilting. It's an experience not to be missed.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

An extensive, richly illustrated exhibition catalogue is available for purchase [online](#) and onsite at the TDRF Store for \$49.50.

Publication sponsored by the Gordon Darling Foundation.



Until 18 May 2024
Tuesday to Saturday
10:00am – 4:00pm

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

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

Guided Exhibition Tours
Thursdays 11:30am
[Book your tour here](#)

SPECIAL EVENT



THREADS OF LOVE AND VICTORY THE EXTRAORDINARY VENICE QUILT

Friday 22 March 6:00pm–7:30pm

Mention 'quilts' and people think of the domestic realm. Not so the extraordinary Venice Quilt! Close scrutiny of its imagery reveals the fascinating and vibrant story of one of the most important periods of Italian history – the Risorgimento (or rising again) – the wild political period of Italian Unification from 1848 to 1866.

The exquisite work reflects the history and key players, in particular the revered freedom fighter Giuseppe Garibaldi and his beloved wife Anita. Jubilant soldiers, dancing women, prancing horses, castles, giraffes, elephants, lions and the Doge in the Venice Lagoon set the vibrant scene. Many hands would have finely crafted the intarsio patterns. Annette Gero's keen eye and sixth sense led to its recent discovery.

In her talk, Lindie Ward will dive into the stories that the quilt reveals.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lindie Ward is an Independent Design Curator, graduating from University College London with a special

interest in textiles and dress. Formerly Curator of Design and Society at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, she curated exhibitions, acquired and documented objects for their extensive collection, and developed the Australian Dress Register. Lindie has worked on collections at the Museums of History NSW, the State Library of New South Wales, the Australian National Maritime Museum, and currently the National Trust (NSW). Her expertise extends to work in theatre and film, both in Australia and overseas, and her major interest in textile techniques and international textiles has led to membership of the Oriental Rug Society of NSW and The Asian Arts Society of Australia.

Friday 22 March | 6:00pm–7:30pm

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

Ticket includes one beverage on arrival. No entry to *Quilts: the Fabric of War 1760-1900* or Fermoy House.

Book now

SPECIAL OFFER



WIN FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL TICKETS

The highly anticipated 35th Alliance Française French Film Festival is back in South Australia for another year, packed with must-see French cinema. The David Roche Foundation is excited to offer our newsletter subscribers a chance to win 1 of 5 double passes for general screenings throughout the Festival, valued at \$48.

The 2024 Festival's whirlwind programme of 41 films spotlights contemporary creation, focusing on the emerging talents and innovative voices shaping the French cinematic landscape. It runs from 21 March - 16 April in Adelaide, with selected screenings presented in Mount Gambier, Renmark, and Victor Harbour.

For more information about the festival and the films, please visit the Alliance Française French Film Festival website [here](#).

ENTER TO WIN TICKETS

To enter the draw to win a double pass, simply e-mail your name to info@rochefoundation.org.au with 'French Film Festival Ticket Giveaway' in the e-mail subject line. Deadline for entries is **11:59pm, Sunday 10 March 2024**. The first 5 names drawn will win a double pass each. Double passes will be posted out to the winners. *Passes are valid until 16 April 2024.*

CANINE TIDBITS



Image: Ch. Fermoy Holy Honey receiving the Best State Bred award at the Afghan Hound Club of South Australia, 1979. Honey is handled by David Roche; Lois Boardman of Akaba Kennels (USA) is presenting the award. Photo: Barkleigh Shute.

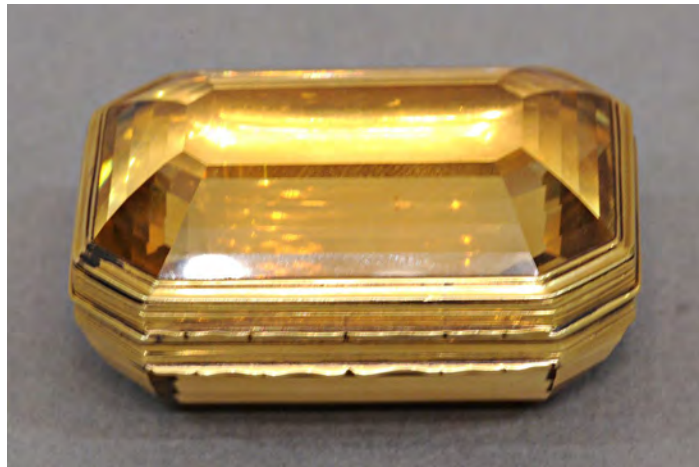
The lead up to Easter was always a busy time at Fermoy Kennels, with both canines and kennel staff deep in preparation for the Sydney Royal Dog Show. David Roche regularly exhibited at the Sydney show, and Fermoy's Champions frequently brought home Best in Breed and Best in Show ribbons.

Pictured is Ch. Fermoy Holy Honey. Daughter of Fermoy Am Brosia and Fermoy Fan Fan the Tulip, Honey was whelped on 11 October 1976. Her impressive pedigree included USA Import grandparents Ch. Coastwind Holyman, Ch. Crown Crest Maya de Mexico, and Crown Crest Miss Carousel. In this photo, she is receiving the Best State Bred title from the Afghan Hound Club of South Australia. Presenting the award is Lois Boardman of Akaba Kennels, USA.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Whether it be the gilt rims of porcelain or the rich ormolu finishes on some of the collection's most extraordinary objects, gold is an unmissable part of the interiors in Fermoy House. Despite collecting

furniture and ceramics in greater quantity, David Roche brought together a significant collection of metalwork, with many of these works crafted out of that king of metals: Gold.



Two table cut citrines have been mounted together with gold to form this handsome snuff box. Crafted in England around 1780, it would have certainly been an accessory that made the wearer stand out from the crowd. The piece later came into the collection of legendary Sotheby's auctioneer Robert C. Woolley (1944-1996). Woolley had handled some of the great collections of the twentieth century including that of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, who David Roche knew through their common love of dogs. Woolley was famed for using unorthodox and highly successful techniques to pitch bidders against each other while commanding the rostrum during high-profile charity auctions.

David Roche purchased this snuff box and a pair of Flight, Barr & Barr dishes from the sale of Woolley's estate in 1997. Incidentally, 1997 was the 50th year of David's collecting odyssey, which began with his first purchase at the age of 17.

To see this extraordinary box and so many more treasures, book your tour of Fermoy house today!

[Book a house tour 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/

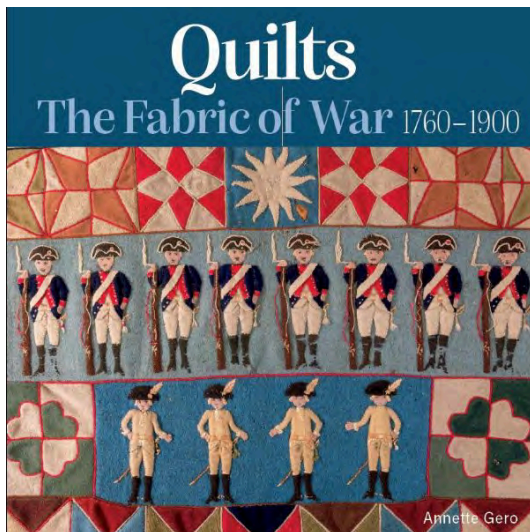
Alternatively, please call into the museum or download the membership application form [here](#).

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

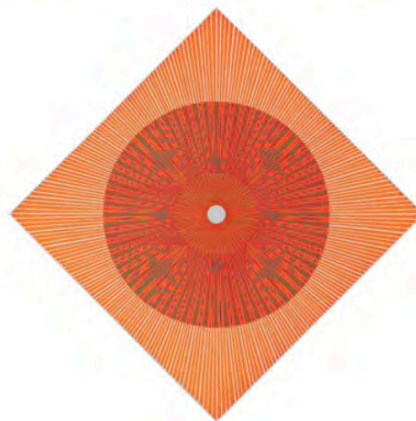


Quilts: The Fabric of War 1760-1900 is richly illustrated and makes an excellent companion to our current exhibition.

\$49.50

[Buy Now](#)

The Adelaide Art Scene
Becoming Contemporary 1939-2000



The Adelaide Art Scene: Becoming Contemporary 1939-2000 includes text by our very own Robert Reason!

\$120.00

[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

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

To Bare All: The Hayward Nudes

14 February – 30 June 2024

Like many avid collectors, the Haywards acquired various works depicting the nude form. From the sensual and beautiful, to the lewd and rude, this new exhibition shines a spotlight on representations of the bare form in our collection.

Featuring works from artists such as Sir Jacob Epstein, Alistair Smart, René Lalique, Augustus John and Sir Ivor Hele, this installation allows us to consider how interpretations of the human figure developed over the early-mid twentieth century.



Exhibition entry is included with house admission: Adult \$17 | Concession \$13

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Image: Matthew Smith, *Nude with a Pearl Necklace*, c. 1930 © Estate of Matthew Smith. Photo & Design: Bit Scribbly

THE CEDARS

A Taste of The Hills Festival

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March 2024 | 12:00 – 7:00pm

Embark on a unique "taste tour" of the Adelaide Hills region at A Taste of The Hills Festival, hosted against the picturesque backdrop of Heysen - The Cedars in Hahndorf.

This event has been designed to support local Adelaide Hills businesses, the local community, and showcase what the region has to offer! From farm-fresh delights to award-winning wines, guests can savour the rich flavours crafted by passionate local producers. A Taste of The Hills Festival invites attendees to "taste" all the Adelaide Hills has to offer, from food and drinks to produce, art, and entertainment, all within the charming confines of this stunning location. At the festival, you can enjoy complimentary tastings, immersing yourself in the diverse flavours of the region. Feel the rhythm of live music and enjoy the entertainment, adding a vibrant beat to your festival experience. Expert-led masterclasses in food, wine, and art provide an opportunity to enhance your skills and appreciation.



The Cedars will be closed to the public on March 23 and 24 for this festival. Tickets are only available

through the A Taste of The Hills website. Ticket holders can also book for a guided tour of The Cedars house and studios at a discounted festival price.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

COLLECTION

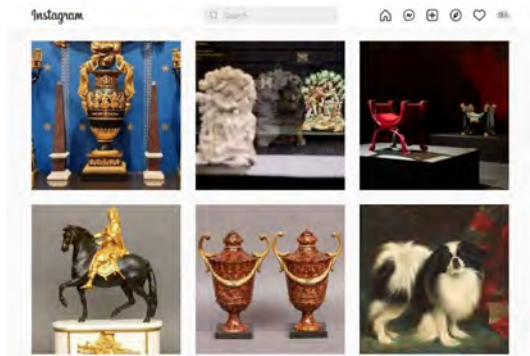
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

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



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House Museum**

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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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