

# CLUB FERMOY

## The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

### Issue 58



Image: *Style & Spirit* co-curator Skye Bartlett putting the finishing touches on a mannequin.

## From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

The Gallery is currently being transformed for our summer exhibition *Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* opening this Friday. One of America's great couturiers, Weinberg's label in the 1960s and 70s was synonymous with quality fabrics, luxury styles, and some of the latest trends. For lovers of vintage fashion and fashion aficionados this exhibition presents the first chance for Australians to delve into the world of Chester Weinberg. There are also ongoing opportunities to learn more about Chester by joining our guided tours, tea and tours, or evening talks. Make sure to look at the full programme and buy the new exhibition catalogue.

Visiting Fermoy House is always an enjoyable experience. With around 3000 items on display there is always something new to catch your attention and hear about from our knowledgeable guides. This includes the DRG team as we learnt about a yellow vase in David's bedroom that carries a particular Irish political stance - see Today's Treasure for more! This edition also includes our fabulous Feast Festival talk on Chester Weinberg and Robert Harland discusses his surprise at connecting to the canine world through his Research Fellowship. Happy reading.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

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## EXHIBITION OPENS FRIDAY



**8 November 2024 – 25 January 2025**

*Style & Spirit* celebrates the inspiring creativity of American couturier Chester Weinberg (1930–1985). At the height of his career Weinberg was held in the same esteem as Geoffrey Beene, Donald Brooks, and Oscar de la Renta. This exhibition reintroduces Weinberg's stylish and spirited creations to audiences in Australia for the first time.

In this glamorous celebration of fashion, more than 50 of Weinberg's best creations from the 1950s to 1980s are displayed alongside pieces by his contemporaries Cristóbal Balenciaga, Christian Dior, Pierre Cardin, and André Courrèges.

See the fashion, learn his story.

**Tuesday to Saturday**  
**10:00am – 4:00pm**  
**(closed 22 Dec – 6 Jan inclusive)**

**Book your tickets now**  
**also available at the door**  
**Guided Tours Thursdays 11:30am**

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

**Presenting partner**

**SAMESH**  
A PARTNERSHIP OF IALIA, SHIRAZ & TORBAY HARBOUR REALTY

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## EVENT

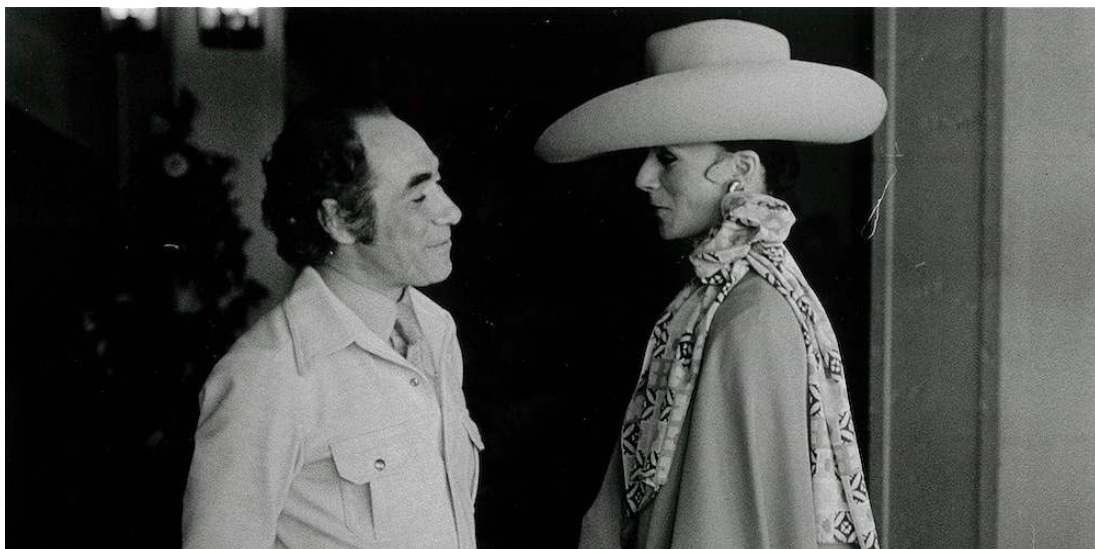


Image detail: John Walther (USA), photographer, Chester Weinberg chats with model Catarina 1971, photographic print. Private Collection, Adelaide.

## CHESTER'S GALS: ACTIVISM, ADVOCACY, AND A-LINE SKIRTS

with Skye Bartlett and Timothy Roberts

Thursday 14 November 6:00–7:15pm

American fashion designer Chester Weinberg was as comfortable dressing New York's high society as he was designing a new generation's hipster jeans. This talk, presented by collector Skye Bartlett and DRG curator Timothy Roberts, illuminates Weinberg's incredible career from the 1960s to the 1980s, with a special focus on the women who inspired him, and the ways he and those around him became champions for social and political change.

**Thursday 14 November 2024** | 6:00–7:15pm

**General:** \$25.10 | **Concession:** \$19.99 (includes booking fee)

(Ticket includes welcome beverage and talk. Ticket does not include entry into *Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* or Fermoy House)

Presented with Pride as part of Feast Festival.

[Get your tickets now](#)

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## CANINE TIDBITS



Dr Robert Harland, the SIDA Foundation and The David Roche Foundation Research Fellow hosted by the UniSA, from Loughborough University in the United Kingdom, is in Adelaide pursuing his interest in toponymy, topophilia, and design. He has been delving into the archive at TDRF to identify the 'graphic heritage' associated with David Roche that may be utilised as a creative resource to enhance David Roche Park, the headquarters of Dogs SA.

As well as David's involvement in the many events hosted at the park, David also played an unacknowledged role in establishing it as one of the best designed venues for dog shows. Robert's research asks the question 'what can we expect to learn about someone from a place named after them?' It is hoped his research will provide opportunity to imagine how David might be commemorated at the park named after him, in ways that live up to his highly developed design sensibility.

For the hundreds of people who attend events and activities at the park, there is the possibility to learn so much more about the design culture that bridges the private and public parts of David's persona. This



may take the form of impermanent, semi-permanent, and permanent public art and design interventions for the visiting public both during and in between the many activities facilitated by Dogs SA, for the local as well as international visitors involved with the canine community.

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## TODAY'S TREASURE

While visiting Ireland in 2003, David Roche acquired this unusual urn-form vase from Gerald Keynon Antiques and Fine Art. Inscribed on the underside 'Donovan's Irish Manufacture', the vase was sold around 1800-05 by Dublin-based glass and china merchants James and George Donovan. The Donovans' established their firm in 1770 at 23 George's Quay, premises also used by their father (also James), a hoop maker, and operated until 1829.

Donovans sold wares from a variety of porcelain manufacturers in Staffordshire, including Copeland, Minton, and Spode, and Shropshire-based Coalport. Though the manufacturer of this porcelain vase remains unknown, it is handsomely decorated with a canary yellow ground and painted detail that conveys a former owner's political position.

The waisted neck of the vase depicts antique Irish crowns and harps encircled by flowers. Beneath this, richly-coloured flowers distract the viewer from nine snakes - symbolic of revolution - curled over a trellis. The lower portion of the vase depicts a cláirseach (Irish harp) between garlands of flowers carried by birds and the vase's plinth features the phrase 'Erin go Brah' (Ireland Forever), two symbols used by the United Irishmen around 1800.



At the time this vase was created, Ireland was in the grips of political turbulence punctuated by uprisings in 1798 and 1803. This remarkable survivor is a significant example of how nationalists would use decorative arts to (in)discreetly convey their sentiments to audiences privileged to enter their homes.

See this vase, and many more treasures on a tour of Fermoy House today!

[Get your tickets now](#)

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## 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/](http://www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/)

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

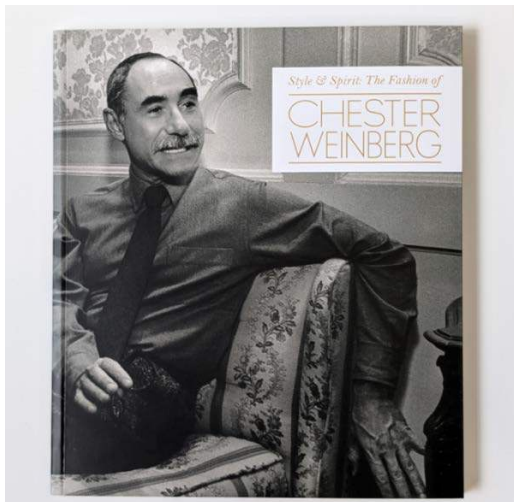
Please return your completed form by post or by dropping it off at the museum.

For further information please e-mail [memberships@rochefoundation.org.au](mailto:memberships@rochefoundation.org.au) or phone 08 8267 3677.

[Find out more](#)

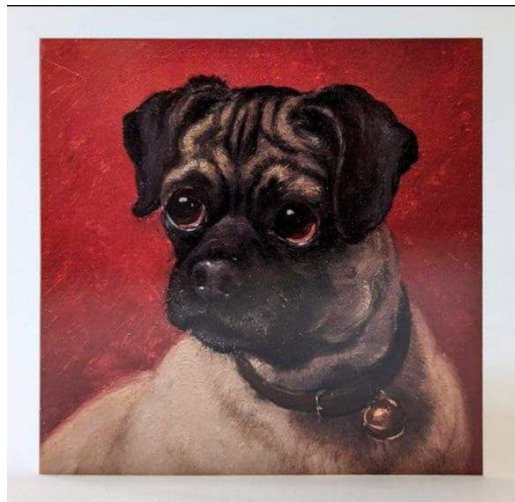
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**GIFT SHOP**



*Style & Spirit: The fashion of Chester Weinberg* is a perfect Christmas gift for lovers of fashion history!  
**Only \$30.00**

**Buy Now**



Our newest greetings card features an image of the handsome little pug painted by Maud Earl  
**\$4 each or \$15 for 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](mailto:info@rochefoundation.org.au) (with your contact details). Click and collect is available.

**We now post internationally!**

**Visit the shop**

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## 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**

**A Visit with Father Christmas at Carrick Hill**  
**Sunday 17 November | from 10am**

Step into a world of holiday magic at Carrick Hill this festive season. Join us for traditional visits with Father Christmas, where visitors can enjoy a relaxed and intimate atmosphere reminiscent of Christmases past. Share your Christmas wishes, engage in delightful conversation, and create lasting memories with the jolly old man himself. Visitors are encouraged to capture their own memories during this special experience, as there will be no professional photography provided.



### **BOOK TICKETS**

### **THE CEDARS**

**Christmas Carols and High Teas at The Cedars**  
**Sunday 8 December | 2-4pm**

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of traditional Christmas carols and a sumptuous high tea. Be enchanted by our carol singers as their festive melodies fill the air, drawing you into the true spirit of

Christmas at The Cedars. This exclusive, one-of-a-kind event will take place in the intimate setting of the Heysen family's music and dining room, offering a rare and special experience. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends and family.

**BOOK TICKETS**



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## COLLECTION

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

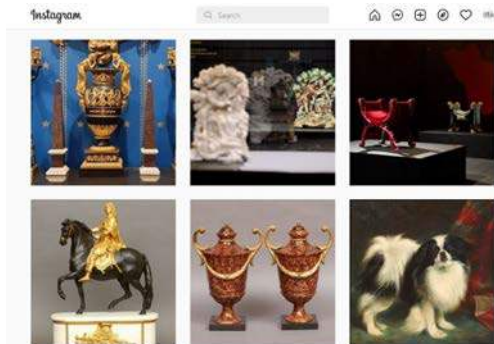
*Use our collection search to find out more about your favourite piece or discover something new.*



**Search the collection**

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## 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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**TDRF acknowledges the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the Adelaide region. We recognise and respect Kurna heritage, beliefs and spiritual relationship with Country, and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.**

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