

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 57



Image: Our current exhibition, *Salon des Refusés 2024* closes on Saturday 26 October. Don't delay, visit today!

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

With only a few weeks left to enjoy *Salon des Refusés 2024*, I encourage you to come and see this impressive selection of sixty portraits and landscapes by Australia's leading artists. All the artists selected by the S. H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney have generously made their work available and, if you love a painting, it's even possible to acquire it for your own home.

Spring has seen an early flush of Gold Bunny roses in front of Fermoy House and some visitors may be wondering why our hedges and trees are looking a little bare. We've had Prestigious Gardens busy reshaping and structurally changing elements in the garden in preparation for spring when a burst of new growth will see everything green-up again and looking great.

Please read-on to learn about two upcoming talks, one examining the estates of Blenheim and Versailles, and the other on American fashion designer Chester Weinberg presented as part of the 2024 Feast Festival. Also featured is a new gift to the collection and an unexpected early canine connection to Fermoy House.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

LAST WEEKS!



Image: Joanna Braithwaite, *Memory Lane 2024*, oil on canvas

SALON DES REFUSÉS 2024

The 'alternative' Archibald and Wynne Prizes


Salon des Refusés was initiated by the S.H. Ervin Gallery in 1992 in response to the large number of works entered into the prestigious Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Each year the S.H. Ervin panel is invited to go behind the scenes of the judging process and select an 'alternative' exhibition from those not chosen for display in the award exhibition.

S.H. Ervin Gallery's 'alternative' selection is a much-anticipated feature that rivals the selections in the 'official' exhibition, with works selected for quality, diversity, humour and experimentation, and which examine contemporary art practices, different approaches to portraiture and responses to the landscape. In 2024, 60 works were selected for the exhibition, with 38 from the Archibald Prize and 22 from the Wynne Prize by selectors Brad Hammond, Director, Orange Regional Gallery and Jane Watters, Director, S.H. Ervin Gallery.

Until 26 October 2024
Tuesday to Saturday
10:00am – 4:00pm

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

Book your tickets now
Tickets also available
at the door

Presenting partner
 **NATIONAL TRUST**
S.H. ERVIN GALLERY

EVENT



Image detail: *Louis XIV*, c. 1670, marble, from the Porte Royale in the citadel of Tournai, now located on the garden-side façade of Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire (Image courtesy A/Prof Robert Wellington)

REFLECTIONS OF THE SUN: BLENHEIM AND VERSAILLES

with Associate Professor Robert Wellington

Thursday 10 October 6:00–7:15pm

When he routed Louis XIV's armies in the War of the Spanish Succession, John Churchill (1650–1722), the first Duke of Marlborough claimed the spoils of victory, including a thirty-ton marble bust of his adversary which he installed on the top of Blenheim Palace as a trophy. The removal of this statue from what was once the site of the French king's power to this new national monument signalled a change in the balance of power in Europe.

Nearly two hundred years after Blenheim was built, Charles Spencer-Churchill (1871–1934), the ninth Duke of Marlborough vowed to restore his family's reputation and its seat, Blenheim, to its former glory. With the family coffers diminished and the income from his estates inadequate, he married Consuelo Vanderbilt, one of the most eligible 'dollar duchesses' of the age. The renovation of Blenheim Palace carried out with the vast Vanderbilt dowry made that British house more French than it was ever meant to be. This talk by Associate Professor Robert Wellington, an internationally recognised expert on the arts of ancien-régime France, will show that Blenheim's once subtle play of emulation and rivalry became an out-and-out tribute to the style of old regime France.

Thursday 10 October 2024 | 6:00–7:15pm

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

(Ticket includes welcome beverage and talk by Associate Professor Robert Wellington. Ticket does not include entry into *Salon des Refusés 2024* or Fermoy House)

Hurry! Very limited tickets remain

Get your tickets now

DISPLAY EXTENDED UNTIL 13 OCTOBER



FERMOY ON FOOT ART TRAIL

Fermoy on Foot is a 2.3km art trail through the streets, laneways and Park Lands of historic North Adelaide. Curator Timothy Roberts carefully selected the works from the David Roche Collection to reveal hidden histories and connections with locations along the trail.

Visit North Adelaide before 13 October to follow the trail, which meanders alongside many charming cafes and eateries, making it easy to stop for a coffee and a bite to eat, supporting local business on the way. A kid's trail quiz is available online for families.

The *Fermoy on Foot* public art initiative is a partnership between David Roche Gallery and City of Adelaide. To find out more about the trail, including how to get there, maps, and other resources, visit Discover Adelaide.

[Find out more](#)

CANINE TIDBITS



Lost and Found.	
<i>Under this heading (if prepaid), 14 words, Sixpence.</i>	
G	OLD Bar Brooch, three stones, between Grenfell and Elizabeth sts.; reward.—28, Elizabeth-st.
L	OST , Gold Ring, Glenelg; reward.—D. Miller and Sons.
L	OST , Tuesday evening, East Adelaide car or East-ter., Furse; reward.—D. Carlile, 69, Grenfell-st.
L	OST , Bundle-st., bundle Paint Brushes; reward.—H. L. Vosz.
L	OST , Saturday, Unley-rd., small Brownpaper Parcel; reward.—"Klaebe," Franklin-st.
L	OST , medium draught chesnut Mare, branded 166 near shoulder; reward.—P. Conroy, West Thebarton. 0-2
L	OST , 27th, Pug Dog, six months, named Leo; reward.—Kilsby Llandaff, Melbourne-st. 22-5
L	OST , Brown Colt, white front foot and white hind foot; TE conjoined over e near shoulder; halter on; information rewarded.—W. Laycock, Way-

If you have visited the gallery since July or have taken the *Fermoy on Foot* walking art trail, you are likely to have noticed a painting of a pug mounted proudly on the iron gate outside Fermoy House. This elegant picture was painted in 1888 by celebrated British canine artist Maud Earl, and was acquired by David Roche at auction in 2006.

Canine connections to Fermoy House can be found long before David's purchase of the property in early 1954, and in fact date back to the residence's earliest days. In 1897, not long after Frederick Kilsby, his wife, and their twin babies moved into the newly-built home, the family's six-month old pug, Leo, escaped. This is confirmed by a classified placed in the *Express & Telegraph* on 29 and 30 October 1897, offering a reward.

While little else is known of Leo's life on Melbourne Street, the re-discovery of this tidbit only enriches the many and varied canine connections to Fermoy House.

NEW ACQUISITION



The David Roche Gallery is grateful to Member and Volunteer Dr Leslie Stephan for the gift of two circular dishes, made and decorated at the Worcester Porcelain Factory, Britain around 1810.

Popular interest in natural history grew throughout the eighteenth century, spurred by global exploration, rising literacy rates, and the establishment of publicly-accessible museums. Particularly dedicated and usually prosperous amateurs formed their own natural history collections, be it through the cultivation of plant specimens, the establishment of private menageries, or the pursuit of collecting mineralogical and conchological specimens. The impact of this can be seen on decorative arts, which began to depict animals, plants, and minerals with increasingly accurate detail towards the early nineteenth century.

These dishes feature hand-painted scenes of shells and corals in the well, with the 'Barr's Orange' walls handsomely embellished with gilt. Prior to Dr Stephan's ownership, the dishes were the property of Howard Emerson Flight, Baron Flight, a direct descendent of Thomas Flight, who purchased the Worcester factory in 1783.

This pair of plates joins Dr Stephan's earlier gift of a Berlin woolwork rug depicting a spaniel, and expands David Roche's handsome group of shell-painted works produced at Worcester. Among these are a pair of square-form dishes bearing near-identical decoration, formerly owned by legendary Sotheby's auctioneer Robert Woolley.

If you would like to have a confidential discussion about donating works of art or making a financial pledge to us, please contact Museum Director Robert Reason. Your gift allows us to do more.

EVENT

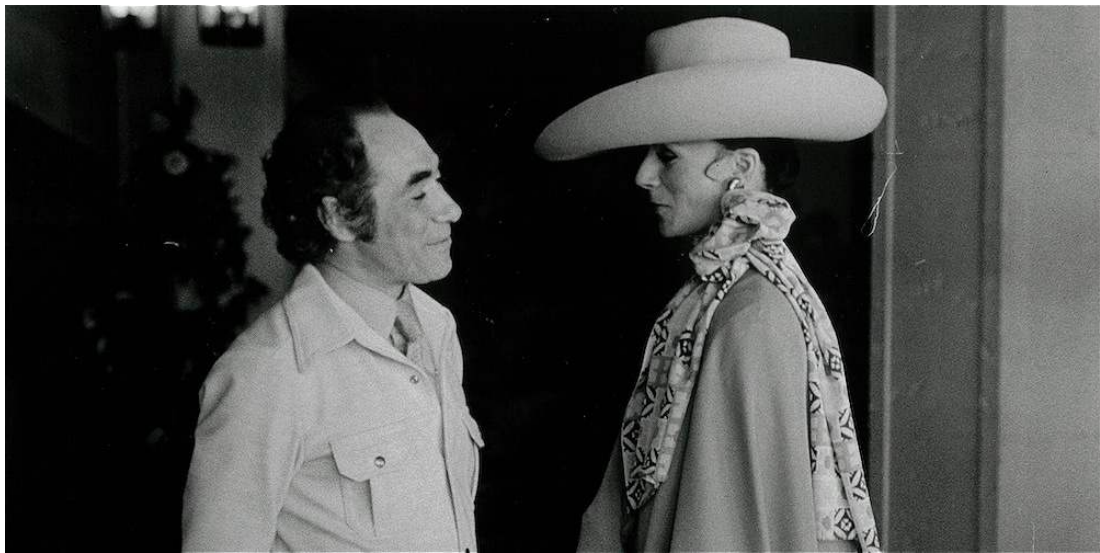


Image detail: John Walther (USA), photographer, Chester Weinberg chats with model Catarina 1971, photographic print. Private Collection, Adelaide.

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**](#)

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



Our popular fruit notebooks are back! The cover depicts a Worcester dish from the Duke of Gloucester service.
Only \$10.00

Buy Now



Our sturdy, 100% cotton tote bag features a bright image of George Bullock's spectacular *Specimen table*.
Only \$25.00

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 the Cedars and Carrick Hill offer wonderful experiences and events. Here's what's on:

THE CEDARS

Faces & Figures: Nora Heysen's Portraits of Women

Tuesday to Saturday | 10:00am – 4:30pm | Included in tour price

A new exhibition celebrating Nora Heysen's portraiture of women is open for viewing in her studio at The Cedars, Hahndorf. Nora Heysen's insightful and intimate depictions of her subjects stand out for their sensitivity, capturing not just the physical likeness but the personality and inner world of the people she painted, reflecting her deep empathy and connection with her subjects. Testament to this extraordinary skill, in 1938 she become the first female and youngest ever recipient of the Archibald Prize for Portraiture as well as being commissioned in 1943 as the first Australian female war artist.

This exhibition includes original portraits and figure studies from the artist's personal collection.

BOOK TICKETS

CARRICK HILL

Bridget Currie | each one a world

Nature Festival 2024



This October, the Carrick Hill House Museum & Gardens come alive with immersive art and music, engaging children's workshops, and insightful gardening events. Whether you're nurturing a budding green thumb or looking to inspire creativity in your little ones, the Carrick Hill Nature Festival program offers something for everyone.



Image: Installation view: each one a world, 2024, Carrick Hill, Adelaide, photo: Sam Roberts

BOOK TICKETS

COLLECTION

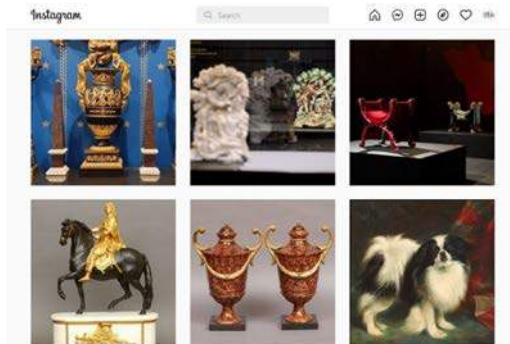
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

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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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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