

An interior life

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Meg Hill*
ARTS & CULTURE

An exhibition on the fringe of the CBD is offering a glimpse into one of the country's best collections of "beautiful things" hidden inside an old house-museum.

Fairhall is a two-storey brick house built in East Melbourne in 1860. It's been open to the public as the home of The Johnston Collection since 1990.

William Robert Johnston, the 20th century collector, died in 1986 and gifted his accumulated belongings to "the people of Victoria".

Since then, the tucked-away museum has invited artists to re-interpret the collection through a regular program of re-installation and interventions of the permanent collection.

But until September the museum will offer a glimpse into the permanent collection and over 400 years of art history with *An Interior Life | William Johnston and his collection*.

The exhibition includes works on paper by one of the greatest printmakers of the 18th-century Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720 - 1778), and paintings by the acclaimed 18th century miniaturist James Scouler.

Fairhouse is one of the few exhibition-houses in Australia unfettered by ropes and barriers. Visitors will be guided through the museum, enjoying stories of travel and historical tales drawn from over 1400 objects, paintings, ceramics, furniture and objet d'art.

In the past the collection has been rearranged by fashion designer Akira Isogawa, architect Pascale Gomes-McNabb, fashion house Romance Was Born, artist Rosslynd Piggot and the artistic director of the Australian Ballet David McAllister AO - among many others.

Dorothy Morgan exhibited at the museum when she was president of the Embroidery Guild of Victoria.

She's spent 15 years there since then as a curatorial volunteer.

"I enjoy the intellectual challenge, the people, the objects. I was a librarian as a profession and curatorial work is quite similar," she said.

"It's the same logical and consistent approach. And knowing where things come from and what they mean. It's both creative and methodical."

The collection is celebrating 30 years of public show this year, and more than 150,000 visitors to Fairhall during that time ●



▲ Dorothy Morgan has volunteered at the collection for 15 years, after exhibiting there herself.



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An Interior Life runs from Feb 17 - Sep 22. Book here: johnstoncollection.org/What-s-On~120



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Celebrating International Women's Day

LOCAL NEWS

Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) will host a week of activities and events from March 2 to 8 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Visitors to the QVWC, located in the heart of the CBD at 210 Lonsdale St, will experience a week-long celebration of women, culminating on International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8.

With a program offering "something for everyone," QVWC CEO Jo Porter said the centre would be the ultimate place for Victorian women and their supporters to celebrate a special day, all week long.

"Art and creative expression are our connective tissue," she said. "What better way to celebrate International Women's Day than to bring women from all walks of life together over one week to create art through a large-scale public artwork; make music as part of a pop-up choir; listen to a ground-breaking author; explore a new exhibition; enjoy some of Melbourne's best community choirs or peruse the range of products by Victorian women artists at the centre's new store?"

From March 2, the centre's historic façade will be transformed by the Slow Art Collective, an artistic collective that creates large-scale public artworks around ideas of environmental sustainability, DIY-culture and collaboration.

On March 4, Karachi-based author and journalist Sanam Maher will appear in conversation with feminist writer and activist Dr Jessamy Gleeson, before award-winning writer, performer and comedian Candy Bowers and mistress Jane York of the Big Feminist Sing will lead the International Women's Day BYO Picnic on March 5.

The centre will mark the day itself with the opening of SHOP! - the centre's new store that stocks work by Victorian women and non-binary artists providing a new retail opportunity in the CBD. For more visit qvwc.org.au ●



Skate park revamp

LOCAL NEWS

The City of Melbourne is calling for submissions on the redesign of iconic Melbourne skate park Riverslide.

The council's Skate Melbourne Plan 2017-2018 prioritised the upgrade of existing facilities, including the Riverslide park in Alexandra Gardens.

The redesign aims to better integrate skate

facilities with the surrounding infrastructure and environment, and ensure daily users have the best experience possible.

Members of the community are asked to submit their ideas through a number of potential avenues online and in person, including taking part in a design workshop or a reference group.

Drop-in sessions were held on Wednesday, February 12 ●



Emergency Relief now available in Melbourne CBD

CatholicCare is now providing Emergency Relief support in Melbourne CBD every Tuesday.



Emergency Relief provides financial or material aid to assist people experiencing financial hardship, resulting from their current life situation or an unexpected crisis event.

We provide confidential, non-judgemental support to maintain the dignity of individuals and families. Our support services are offered to the whole community, regardless of religious belief or background.

Please call 0437 203 044 on any Tuesday morning between 9:00am - 11:00am to make a same-day appointment. Appointments are required to access this free service.

CatholicCare provides Emergency Relief as a participating agency of CatholicCare Victoria Tasmania.

CELEBRATING ALL WEEK: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

ALL FREE! ALL FUN! ALL WELCOME! QVWC.ORG.AU



SANAM MAHER WITH JESSAMY GLEESON

WED 4 MARCH 6.30-7.30PM

Sanam's account of Qandeel Baloch's short life as a social media star is an illuminating investigation into Pakistan's class, gender and sexual mores, and the impact of social media on a country struggling with its contemporary identity.

BOOK NOW qvwc.org.au/happenings



BYO PICNIC

WITH CANDY BOWERS, JANE YORK + DJ JEN MOORE
THU 5 MARCH 6-9PM

Sing it, Sing it. This is a big, fun, feminist sing-a-long hosted by Candy Bowers (Black Honey Company) & Jane York (Big Feminist Sing). Bring a plate, bring your voice.

BOOK NOW qvwc.org.au/happenings



FEMINIST MAKERS SHOP! OPENING

SUN 8 MARCH 12-5PM
QV SQUARE

SHOP! like a feminist on International Women's Day

We're partying as we open the doors on our new retail venture featuring products created by Victorian women & non-binary people.

Image: Jamie Mumford Jewellery



ALL WEEK

SLOW ART COLLECTIVE
SIMONE THOMSON (Opens 5 March)

CHOIRS IN THE HALL

2 March 5:30pm LivingSong

4 March 5:30pm Heidelberg Mamas 6:10pm Brunswick Women's Choir

5 March 6:10pm Pagan Angels & Trolls

6 March 12.40pm Prana Mob

