

**This year TJC continues William Johnston's bold vision to celebrate art and creative talent in all its forms. Working with local artists and cultural leaders TJC strives to build mutually beneficial relationships with our communities and to this end we have, over the last 12 months, presented more than 70 events and activities including exhibitions, special tours, workshops, talks, lectures, and master classes.**

We have showcased the work of more than 160 contemporary makers and artists, engaged over 30 lecturers and speakers, and participated in five major Melbourne festival and cultural events. Here are some of the year's highlights.

*FEAST | Christmas at The Johnston Collection 2017 | 2018*, our first exhibition for the 2017/2018 year, opened in October. In this, our third survey exhibition, outstanding works from the previous four years of Christmas exhibitions were selected to be reshowed, allowing us to look back and celebrate the breadth of talent and the diverse approaches of our local makers who work across a whole range of media. This highly successful show also included some new works commissioned by TJC, introducing new art and artists to our audiences which is central to TJC's vision.

*ANOTHER LOOK | WILLIAM JOHNSTON: His Residence & Collection* opened in February presenting for the first time our sumptuous Green Drawing Room as a grand Indian-inspired Durbar room. The Durbar room arrangement included the magnificent 'salon suite' – one of the many significant items Johnston acquired over his lifetime - purchased from the sale of vice-regal furniture from government House, Calcutta (now known as Raj Bhavan, Kolkata). This exhibition, which was based around an original arrangement concept for William Johnston's collection in *Fairhall* by architect Peter Lovell, highlighted Johnston's love of India and especially Calcutta that, in later years, became his favourite place to visit to replenish his shop stock.

In June 2018 we presented *PATTERNS OF COLLECTING | FROM THE BOWER at The Johnston Collection*, a touring exhibition featuring artwork and items from the unique personal collections of four contemporary Victorian artists: Loris Button, Deborah Klein, Louise Saxton, and Carole Wilson. Their studio collections which ranged from curiosities, natural history specimens, memorabilia, discarded books, china, textiles and old tools of trade, were installed in *Fairhall* alongside and responding to William Johnston's



collection. *PATTERNS OF COLLECTING* explored the ways in which objects are collected and ideas around the notion of a bower and a woman's private space.

Throughout the year Menu tours focusing on particular areas in the Collection were held offering visitors a further way to learn about and enjoy the Collection. We also presented a number of specially curated programmes for Melbourne cultural events and festivals including the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival, and Open House Melbourne engaging with a broad and diverse audience and building relationships with our communities.

In 2018 we presented more than 40 lectures, talks, study series, and masterclasses featuring a range of local and international speakers from a variety of fields, offering diverse perspectives on a whole range of subjects. This year, due to demand and a continuous run of almost sold-out lectures, we decided to extend our lecture program into November for the first time. Highlights of our 2018 lecture program included an exclusive Masterclass series *THE ROYAL COLLECTORS* with Oliver Everett, Librarian Emeritus of the Royal Library, Windsor Castle; an exclusive Masterclass *THE FRENCH REFLECT ON THE NEW WORLD* with Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, Professor of American History, Université de Paris; and a Study Series *THE ART OF INDIA* which reflected on some of the themes around India and the British Raj explored in the concurrent exhibition *ANOTHER LOOK*. We also presented a series of special events for The Friends of The Johnston Collection, including an evening at a private Australian art collection and an architectural tour and talk at the Lyon Housemuseum, fostering enjoyment through learning and a sense of community amongst our members.

We continued our *OPENING DOORS* campaign to raise funds so that we can continue to deliver engaging programs for all and to preserve William Johnston's legacy into the future. In August we held our annual major fundraising event, a cocktail party in the Gothic Revival interiors of the ANZ Bank's Verdon Chambers. It was a big success, raising more than \$14,000 on the night. I thank our hardworking fundraising committee led by Lisa Arrowsmith and all our generous donors for their support this year.

All our achievements this year are the result of the very hard work of the many volunteers, supporters, members, and staff of TJC. I would like to thank them all for their commitment, expertise and enthusiasm and for recognising the importance of what we do and for making The Johnston Collection the welcoming and vibrant place that it is.

**Louis Le Vaillant**  
DIRECTOR | CURATOR

