

GARRY FABIAN MILLER

Garry Fabian Miller has a deserved reputation as one of the most progressive artists working with photography today. His methods look back to the early pioneers of photography in the 1830s and 1840s, passing light through objects – especially plants – or through filters of oil or coloured water onto photo-sensitive paper. In his return to basics, the fundamentals of form and colour, his work looks back to these early pioneers, but it also looks forward.

Fabian Miller's earliest work was landscaped based. He gained international acclaim in the 1970's for his photographs of sky, land and sea, particularly for his series titled *Sections of England: The Sea Horizon* that were the first shown at the Arnolfini Gallery in 1979. Since 1985 he has made cameraless images, essentially abstract photography without camera or film, exploring the possibilities of image-making in works that continue to acknowledge the rhythms of nature and passing of the the seasons.

Since the mid-1980s, Miller has worked without a camera using the techniques of early nineteenth century photographic exploration to experiment with the nature and possibilities of light as both medium and subject. His earliest camera-less photographs look back to the pioneers of photography in the 1830s and 1840s, passing light through translucent objects, principally leaves, seedpods and flower heads, into an enlarger and using them as transparencies through which light passed on to light-sensitive paper.

Since 1992, Miller has explored a more abstract form of picture-making by passing light through coloured glass and liquid and cut paper forms. In sharp contrast to the norm of photographic exposures that last for a fragment of a second, Miller often uses long exposures lasting anywhere between one and twenty hours to create his unique and luminous images.

For the last year or so the artist been striving in the darkroom and studio against the end of photography as he knows it, as the reserves of his materials and chemistry dwindle. The months of lockdown have, for Miller, represented the culmination of four decades of working without a camera, bringing images of light out of the dark to experiment with the possibilities of light and colour as both medium and subject.

The solo exhibition *Midwinter Blaze* was presented at Ingleby in 2019, accompanied by a major new book, *BLAZE*, introduced by Edmund de Waal. For Art Basel Miami Beach 2020 Ingleby made a digital solo presentation of new works made by the artist in the darkroom during lockdown.

In 2022, Miller was awarded an Honorary Fellowship with the Bodleian Libraries at Oxford University. The fellowship includes a public lecture series, *The Light Gatherers*, beginning March 2022 and running until October 2023, and is accompanied by a publication, *Dark Room: The Memoir*, due to be published in 2023, featuring an essay by Edmund de Waal.

Miller is represented in numerous private and public collections worldwide, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Biography

1957 Born Bristol

 Lives and works in Dartmoor

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2023 *Adore*, Arnolfini – International Centre for Contemporary Arts, Bristol, UK
Sea Horizons: Sections of England, National Museum of Wales, Wales, UK

- 2021 *Deep Time*, HackelBury Fine Art, London, UK
- 2019 *MIDWINTER BLAZE*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
- 2018 *Voyage*, Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh, UK
- 2016 *Garry Fabian Miller: Réflexions Dans Une Chambre Noir*, Galerie Gimpel & Muller, Paris, France
- 2015 *Bliss*, HackelBury Fine Art, London, UK
Dwelling, Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh, UK
- 2014 *Spectures*, Galeria Nara Roesler, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 2013 *Garry Fabian Miller: cercles 1991 – 2011*, Gimpel & Muller Gallery, Paris, France
Voyage, Hackelbury Fine Art, London, UK
The Middle Place, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2011 *Rayons de couleurs*, Galeri Gimpel & Müller, Paris, France
THAT I MAY SEE, Hackelbury Fine Art, London, UK
- 2010 *The Colour of Time*, Hackelbury Fine Art, London UK
- 2009 *The Colours*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Time Passage, Abbott Hall, Kendall, UK
- 2008 *Time Passage*, James Hyman Fine Art
Year One, Newlyn Art Gallery, Newlyn, UK
Authentic Tidings of Invisible Things, An Tobar, Isle of Mull, UK
The Years, Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007 *Garry Fabian Miller & Edmund de Waal*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Year One, New Art Centre, Salisbury, UK
- 2006 Goss Gallery, Dallas, Texas, USA
- 2005 *Becoming Magma*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Real in the World, Mead Gallery, University of Warwick (touring)
Galerie Nichido, Paris, France
Exposure, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Illuminator, Hamiltons Gallery, London, UK
Rencontres d'Arles, International Festival of Photography, Arles, France
- 2004 *Tracing Light*, The Cleveland Museum of Arts, USA
Northern Suns Golden Storms, Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
Blue, Gold, Hamiltons, London, UK
- 2003 *Golden Storms*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Burning, Thought of a Night Sea, Valentina Moncada, Rome, Italy
- 2002 *Flair*, Tokyo Design Centre, Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
Golden Burning, Night Cities, Purdy Hicks, London, UK
Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK
- 2001 *Petworth Windows*, Purdy Hicks, London, UK
Gallery Camera Work, Berlin, Germany
- 2000 *Thought of a Night Sea*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Solar Eclipse, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, USA
Six Chapel row Contemporary Art, Bath, UK
- 1999 *Towards a Solar Eclipse*, Tate, St Ives, UK

- Tracing Light*, Petworth House, Sussex, UK
- 1998 *In the Shadow of the Sun*, Hamiltons Gallery, London, UK
Sections of England: The Sea Horizon, Valentina Moncada, Rome, Italy
- 1997 De La War Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, UK
Sections of England: The Sea Horizon, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
Sections of England: The Sea Horizon, Michael Hue Williams Fine Art, London, UK
- 1996 *Elective Affinities*, Michael Hue Williams Fine Art, London, UK
Of Sons and Angels, Museet for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark
- 1995 *Observances*, The Pier Gallery, Orkney, UK
- 1994 *Dawn*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Japan
Natural Mechanics, Laurence Miller Gallery, New York, USA
- 1993 *Home Land*, Rebecca Hossack, St James's, London, UK
Illumine, The Photographers Gallery, London (touring)
- 1991-3 *The Gatherer*, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton, UK
(touring) – Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance; Mead Gallery, University of Warwick, Cambridge Darkroom; Stills Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 1988 *A Gathering in for the Healing*, Natural History Museum, London, UK
- 1987 *The Tree: A Return to Grace*, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK
- 1986 *Man from Hunter to Gatherer*, Axiom, Cheltenham, UK [touring] - Impressions, York, UK; Watershed, Bristol, UK
- 1985 Untitled Gallery, Sheffield, UK
- 1984 *Green Grain*, Festival Gallery, Bath, UK
- 1983 *Ritual of Gathered Rain*, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK
- 1979 Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, UK

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *Waiting II*, HackelBury Fine Art, London, UK
- 2020 *Babel*, White Cube Online, London, UK
Waiting, HackelBury Fine Art, London, UK
- 2018 *Jacob's Ladder*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
TWENTY, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
Astronomy Victorious, The University of Edinburgh, UK
Light + Dark, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, Massachusetts, USA
- 2015 *white*, (curated by Edmund de Waal) Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2014 *Spectres*, Nara Roesler Gallery, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 2013 *Once upon a time and a very good time it was...* Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
Colour-Love, The Collection & Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK
Touching Colour, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain 1966-79, Hayward Touring group exhibition

Southampton Art Gallery, Southampton, UK, and tours to: The National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK; Mead Gallery, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK; Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Yorkshire, UK

- 2011 *Something that I'll never really see — contemporary photography from the V&A*, Victoria and Albert Museum, Bangalore, India
- 2010 *Shadow Catchers*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
A Little Bit of Magic Realised (with Susan Derges) Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Sitting and Looking, Dovecot, Edinburgh, UK (toured to Somerset House, London)
- 2009 *Water*, James Hyman Fine Art
- 2006-7 *Alchemy*, Harewood House, Leeds, UK (touring)
- 2004 *From Here to Eternity: Vija Celmins, Susan Derges, Richard Long, Garry Fabian Miller, James Turrell*; Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2003 *Optic Nerve*, Abstract Colour Photographer, Wolsey Art Gallery, UK; Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich; Photofusion, London, UK
- 2002 *Four Photographers*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2001 *At Sea*, Tate Liverpool, UK
Planet Earth, City Art Gallery, Leicester, UK
- 2000 *Unique Photographers*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA
Chorus of Light: Photographs from the Sir Elton John Collection, The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, USA
Breathless: Photography and Time, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1999 *Revelation*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
A Focus for Prayer, Six Chapel Row Contemporary Art, Bath, UK
- 1998 *Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures XII*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1997 *Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures XI*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1996 *The Inner Eye*, South Bank Centre, London, UK
Under the Sun, Fraenkel Gallery, USA
- 1995 *Heaven's Embroidered Cloths*, National Museum of Film, Photography & Television, Bradford, UK
20 Modern British Photographers, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Context and Continuity, Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance, UK
- 1994 *Illumine*, The Verula Monastery, Tarrazona, Spain
- 1993 *New Inhabitants*, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK
An Undiscovered Country, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
- 1992-4 *Special Collections, The Photographic Order from Pop to Now*, International Centre of Photography, New York, (touring)
- 1990 *The Journey*, Lincoln Cathedral, UK
Collecting for the Future: A Decade of Contemporary Acquisitions, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1989-93 *Anima Mundi*, Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Canada
- 1989 *Out of the Wood*, Crafts Council of Great Britain (touring)
New Icons, Mead Gallery, University of Warwick, UK
The Tree of Life, South Bank Centre (touring)

Towards a Bigger Picture, Tate, Liverpool, UK
Artists in National Parks, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
Photo Sculpture, Watershed, Bristol, UK

- 1987 *Knowing Your Place*, Artists; Parish Maps, Common Ground (touring)
Towards a Bigger Picture, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1986 *Image and Exploration*, The Photographers Gallery, London (touring)
Land Matters, Boston, Lincolnshire, UK
The Elements, Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, UK (touring)

Selected Collections

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France
British Land Company, London
Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA
Conoco PLC
Deutsche Morgan Grenfell
Devon Country Art Collection, UK
The Fogg Art Museum, Boston, USA
The Gillman Collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
Goldman Sachs
Goss-Michael Foundation
Government Art Collection, UK
Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK
Hiscox PLC
Houston Museum of Fine Arts, USA
Sir Elton John Collection
Museet for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark
Kasama Nichido Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
National Museum of Film, Photography & Television, Bradford, UK
National Trust Foundation for Art, UK
National Westminster Bank Collection, London, UK
Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney, UK
Prendimi, Japan
Queen Alice Aqua
University of Warwick, UK
Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

Publications

- 2019 Gary Fabian Miller: *Blaze*, Ingleby, Edinburgh
- 2012 *Home Dartmoor*, Filtow, Newton Abbot
- 2010 *The Colour of Time: Garry Fabian Miller*, Black Dog Publishing, London
Shadow Catchers, Victoria and Albert Museum and Merrel Publishing, London
- 2008 *Time Passage*, Garry Fabian Miller, James Hyman Fine Art, London
- 2007 *Year One*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2005 *Exposure*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2005 *Illumine*, Martin Barnes, Merrell Publishers Ltd, London
- 2003 *Thoughts of a Night Sea: Photographs by Garry Fabian Miller*, Lavinia Greenlaw, Merrel Publishers Ltd
- 2001 *Tracing Light*, David Alan Mellor, Garry Fabian Miller, Photo Works
- 1997 *Under the Sun*, Christopher Bucklow, Susan Derges, Garry Fabian Miller, Adam Fuss, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco
- 1991 *The Gatherer - Garry Fabian Miller*, Rupert Martin, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton