

Garry Fabian Miller Great Britain b. 1957

When we're born, our brain is like a dark rock. Each day you live, it is exposed to the light... the accumulated light becomes our mind and our thoughts."

— Garry Fabian Miller



Garry Fabian Miller, image by Sam Fabian Miller

Garry Fabian Miller Biography

Garry Fabian Miller is recognised as one of the most significant figures in contemporary camera-less photography. For over four decades he has redefined the medium, abandoning the camera in favour of a meticulous darkroom practice in which light itself becomes both subject and material. Working with coloured glass, cut-paper forms and exceptionally long exposures, he creates luminous abstractions that exist at the intersection of photography, painting and drawing. Combining technical innovation with a profound engagement with light, colour and time, Garry Fabian Miller has established a unique visual language that has profoundly expanded the possibilities of contemporary photography.

Garry Fabian Miller lives and works in the UK

Early Life and Education

Born in Bristol in 1957, Garry Fabian Miller is one of the most distinctive artists working with photography today. His early practice was rooted in landscape, photographing the sky, land and sea, before he began working without a camera in the mid-1980s. Since then, his work has centred on an exploration of light as both medium and subject.

Camera-less Photography and Artistic Practice

Working directly with light-sensitive photographic paper, Miller creates images through carefully controlled exposures of coloured light, using filters, liquids and cut-paper forms to shape colour and form. Rather than recording the visible world through a lens, his photographs are made from light itself. The resulting luminous, abstract compositions explore colour, nature, perception and the passing of time.

Major Exhibitions and Recognition

Over a career spanning more than five decades, Miller has exhibited extensively in the UK and internationally. His work is held in major public and private collections worldwide, including the V&A Museum, which holds the largest collection of his work. He lives and works in Dartmoor, where the landscape and the rhythm of daily walking have been central to the development of his practice since the late 1980s.

Major Achievements

Pioneer of contemporary camera-less photography since the mid-1980s

Becoming Magma, Victoria and Albert Museum (2005)

Adore, Arnolfini (2023)

Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society (2017)

Honorary Fellowship of the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford (2022)

Featured in the landmark Victoria and Albert Museum exhibition *Shadow Catchers*, dedicated to contemporary camera-less photography

Selected Commissions and Collections

Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 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
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
 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
 V&A Museum, London, UK

Selected Exhibitions | Solo

2026	<i>Garry Fabian Miller: Between the Moon and the Hawthorn</i> , Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK <i>Garry Fabian Miller: Our Garden. Growing. Making. Living.</i> , Kestle Barton, Manaccan, UK
2025	<i>Môrwelion – The Sea Horizon</i> , Oriel y Parc – National Museum Wales, St Davids, UK
2023	<i>Adore</i> , Arnolfini – International Centre for Contemporary Arts, Bristol, UK <i>Sea Horizons: Sections of England</i> , National Museum of Wales, Wales, UK
2021	<i>Deep Time</i> , HackelBury Fine Art, London, UK
2019	<i>MIDWINTER BLAZE</i> , Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
2018	<i>Voyage</i> , Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh, UK

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2016	<i>Garry Fabian Miller: Réflexions Dans Une Chambre Noir</i> , Galerie Gimpel & Muller, Paris, France
2015	<i>Bliss</i> , Hackelbury Fine Art, London, UK <i>Dwelling</i> , Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh, UK
2014	<i>Spectures</i> , Galeria Nara Roesler, Sao Paulo, Brazil
2013	<i>Garry Fabian Miller: cercles 1991 – 2011</i> , Gimpel & Muller Gallery, Paris, France <i>Voyage</i> , Hackelbury Fine Art, London, UK <i>The Middle Place</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2011	<i>Rayons de couleurs</i> , Galeri Gimpel & Müller, Paris, France <i>THAT I MAY SEE</i> , Hackelbury Fine Art, London, UK
2010	<i>The Colour of Time</i> , Hackelbury Fine Art, London UK
2009	<i>The Colours</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK <i>Time Passage</i> , Abbott Hall, Kendall, UK
2008	<i>Time Passage</i> , James Hyman Fine Art <i>Year One</i> , Newlyn Art Gallery, Newlyn, UK <i>Authentic Tidings of Invisible Things</i> , An Tobar, Isle of Mull, UK <i>The Years</i> , Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
2007	<i>Garry Fabian Miller & Edmund de Waal</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK <i>Year One</i> , New Art Centre, Salisbury, UK
2006	Goss Gallery, Dallas, Texas, USA
2005	<i>Becoming Magma</i> , Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK <i>Real in the World</i> , Mead Gallery, University of Warwick (touring) Galerie Nichido, Paris, France <i>Exposure</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK <i>Illuminator</i> , Hamiltons Gallery, London, UK Rencontres d'Arles, International Festival of Photography, Arles, France
2004	<i>Tracing Light</i> , The Cleveland Museum of Arts, USA <i>Northern Suns Golden Storms</i> , Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan <i>Blue, Gold</i> , Hamiltons, London, UK
2003	<i>Golden Storms</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK <i>Burning, Thought of a Night Sea</i> , Valentina Moncada, Rome, Italy
2002	<i>Flair</i> , Tokyo Design Centre, Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan <i>Golden Burning</i> , Night Cities, Purdy Hicks, London, UK Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK
2001	<i>Petworth Windows</i> , Purdy Hicks, London, UK Gallery Camera Work, Berlin, Germany
2000	<i>Thought of a Night Sea</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK <i>Solar Eclipse</i> , Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, USA Six Chapel row Contemporary Art, Bath, UK
1999	<i>Towards a Solar Eclipse</i> , Tate, St Ives, UK <i>Tracing Light</i> , Petworth House, Sussex, UK
1998	<i>In the Shadow of the Sun</i> , Hamiltons Gallery, London, UK <i>Sections of England: The Sea Horizon</i> , Valentina Moncada, Rome, Italy
1997	De La War Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, UK

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- 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*, Sheffield, UK
- 1984 *Green Grain*, Festival Gallery, Bath, UK
- 1983 *Ritual of Gathered Rain*, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK
- 1979 Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, UK

Selected Exhibitions | Group

- 2026 ***The Darkroom, The Dye Lab and The Kiln: Garry Fabian Miller, Ptolemy Mann and Marit Tingleff, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland***
Illuminations, Anat Ebgi, New York, USA
The Shape of Things: Where Color Meets Form, Holden Luntz Gallery, Palm Beach, USA
- 2025 *Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2025*, The Royal Academy, London, UK
Garry Fabian Miller & Christopher Bucklow: Photography's Creative Eyes, Holden Luntz Gallery, Palm Beach, USA
- 2024 *Dartmoor: A Radical Landscape*, Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter, UK
Anew, Francis Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2023 *Natural Magic: Experiments in Photography*, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford, UK
Bright Sparks: Photography and the Talbot Archive, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford, UK
Twenty-Five, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
- 2022 *Studies in Light: Garry Fabian Miller and Jean-Baptiste Huynh*, Holden Luntz Gallery, Palm Beach, Florida, USA
- 2021 *Waiting II*, HackelBury Fine Art, London, UK
- 2020 *Babel*, White Cube Online, London, UK
Waiting, HackelBury Fine Art, London, UK

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- 2018 *The Unseen Masterpiece*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
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.
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

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	<i>20 Modern British Photographers</i> , Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
	<i>Context and Continuity</i> , Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance, UK
1994	<i>Illumine</i> , The Verula Monastery, Tarrazona, Spain
1993	<i>New Inhabitants</i> , Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK
	<i>An Undiscovered Country</i> , Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
1992-4	<i>Special Collections, The Photographic Order from Pop to Now</i> , International Centre of Photography, New York, (touring)
1990	<i>The Journey</i> , Lincoln Cathedral, UK
	<i>Collecting for the Future: A Decade of Contemporary Acquisitions</i> , Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
1989-93	<i>Anima Mundi</i> , Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Canada
1989	<i>Out of the Wood</i> , Crafts Council of Great Britain (touring)
	<i>New Icons</i> , Mead Gallery, University of Warwick, UK
	<i>The Tree of Life</i> , South Bank Centre (touring)
	<i>Towards a Bigger Picture</i> , Tate, Liverpool, UK
	<i>Artists in National Parks</i> , Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
	<i>Photo Sculpture</i> , Watershed, Bristol, UK
1987	<i>Knowing Your Place</i> , Artists; Parish Maps, Common Ground (touring)
	<i>Towards a Bigger Picture</i> , Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
1986	<i>Image and Exploration</i> , The Photographers Gallery, London (touring)
	<i>Land Matters</i> , Boston, Lincolnshire, UK
	<i>The Elements</i> , Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, UK (touring)

Selected Publications

2023	Garry Fabian Miller: Adore, Arnolfini, Bristol
	Garry Fabian Miller: Dark Room, Bodleian Library, Oxford
2019	Garry Fabian Miller: Blaze, Ingleby, Edinburgh
2012	Home Dartmoor, Filtow, Newton Abbot
	Shadow Catchers: Camera-less Photography, Victoria and Albert Museum and Merrel Publishing, London
2010	The Colour of Time: Garry Fabian Miller, Black Dog Publishing, London
2008	Time Passage, Garry Fabian Miller, James Hyman Fine Art, London
2007	Year One, Ingleby, Edinburgh
2005	Exposure, Ingleby, Edinburgh
	Illumine, Martin Barnes, Merrell Publishers Ltd, London
2002	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