

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Casting Light***, a survey of the work of Paul S Miller  
23 January to 24 February 2018

### **Exhibition launch**

Saturday 10 February 2-4 pm, with Jo-Anne Reeves, Chief Executive Officer Parkinson's NSW

*My work has always been driven by a sense of purpose, compelled for a lifetime to try to understand and explain both the sorrows and joys that confront us. Now, having had to deal with the condition of Parkinson's disease for more than 16 years, it is truly a test of the spirit and soul. This condition does not define me but is part of me. It has instilled in me a sense of urgency and clarity, and in a strange way allowed me to find within me, a courage and inner light.* Paul Miller

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition by Canadian born Sydney artist Paul S Miller. The exhibition curator, Nick Vickers, reveals the breadth of Miller's practice in drawing, watercolour, ceramics and painting in egg tempera. The artist's techniques demand different approaches; the work in egg tempera requires an exactness in carefully observed details, with the finest brushstrokes, while drawings accommodate a loose expressive approach, such as the occasions when ink is applied with chopsticks.

Miller's subject matter includes portraits of friends, the landscape of his local area, country areas he visits, still life arrangements of studio objects and evocative images of dreams and memories from his early years in Canada. In the catalogue essay Vickers states "Paul Miller is able to confront a notion of understanding that his affliction with Parkinson's Disease is that swirl of smoke that threatens to envelop him in a bush picnic. Perhaps it is that light in the jar that is the illumination of the 'blue angel' who, after all, is the alter ego of the artist himself and he who has become the keeper of his own soul."

Miller completed studies in painting and printmaking at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. He came to Australia in 1987 to undertake a Master of Fine Arts degree at the Centre for the Arts, University of Tasmania. He has lived in Sydney since 1989 and has focused on teaching and creating art. He has held solo exhibitions in Australia and Canada and exhibited in numerous group shows. He was a finalist in the 2000 Sulman Prize, 2005 Wynne Prize, 2013 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and the 2014 Archibald Prize.

### **Short statement 50 words**

Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, 23 January - 24 February. ***Casting Light***, a survey of painting, drawing and ceramics by Canadian born Paul S Miller, curated by Nick Vickers. Miller has lived with Parkinson's disease for over 16 years. Exhibition launch, Saturday 10 February 2-4 pm, in collaboration with Parkinson's NSW.



*Cold Day for a Bush Picnic (after McCubbin), 2017,*  
egg tempera on panel, 120 cm x 180 cm



*Angel (4) The messenger, 2007,*  
watercolour on paper, 58 cm x 77 cm

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High Resolution images are available.

The **Grace Cossington Smith Gallery** is a not-for-profit gallery, run by Abbotsleigh, serving the public through free admission and a changing exhibition program. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10 am-5 pm and Saturday 9am – 4pm. Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga.

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