



Dovecot Gallery



Press Release

GARRY FABIAN MILLER | VOYAGE

Exhibition open: Friday 2 February to Monday 7 May 2018

Press day: Thursday 1 February 2018

Photography/film: Please contact info@dovecotstudios.com to make an appointment

Install images: Available from Monday 5 February 2018

Exhibition open to the public (free admission): Mon-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm

Exhibition webpage: <http://ow.ly/cBEa30gxw0> | **Social media:** #gfmvoyage

The Garry Fabian Miller *Voyage* exhibition open 2 February to 7 May 2018, showcases a new tapestry created in collaboration with Dovecot Tapestry Studio, placing it within Fabian Miller's as well as tracing back long term influences through key early pieces from the artist's career.

Dovecot have worked with the artist Garry Fabian Miller since 2015 when he co-curated an exhibition, *Dwelling* which highlighted the unexpected association between his working practice and the craft of tapestry and rug-making. This new exhibition extends this exciting collaboration as the Dovecot Tapestry Studio weavers unveil a tapestry, *Voyage into the deepest, darkest blue*; a response to a new picture made by the artist. Not a direct copy, instead the wool blends have been developed to make a new image based on an amalgamation of two photographs.

Garry Fabian Miller is an artist who has consistently pushed the boundaries of photographic picture making. He stopped using a camera in 1984, preferring to use light as both source and subject, from which point his images have grown increasingly abstract. His chosen photographic paper, Cibachrome, along with the associated darkroom chemistry ceased production in 2011 but this demise has acted as a spur for the artist to explore his interests in light and colour more collaboratively, working with others to continue seeking new ways of working.

The new tapestry's subject, a sea voyage towards the horizon, has been a recurring theme in Fabian Miller's career since 1975, when he used a camera to record changing light on the sea over the Severn Estuary. Four vintage prints, from the series titled *Sections of England - The Sea Horizons*, 1976, made by the artist when he was 19 years old are included within the exhibition. The exhibition also features a rarely seen image from the collection of the V&A, by pioneering photographer Gustave Le Gray (1820 - 1884). Le Gray's mastery of the ability to capture light and his pioneering techniques developed during the earliest days of photography have long had an influence on Fabian Miller's own work in the medium.

Garry Fabian Miller's photographic practice, acquired through years of manipulating his own chosen material, light, in a darkroom, has by its nature, resulted in his keen interest in light, colour and the craft of making. The exhibition will include examples of Fabian Miller's recent digital prints as well as seeking to convey how, through the skilled and careful choice of different coloured wool blends, many specially formulated for this tapestry, the weavers have been able to retain the intensity of the

artist's vision. Using the natural and tactile medium of wool to emulate the colour and intensity of the artist's new digital printing.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

- At the same time as weaving the *Voyage into the deepest, darkest blue* tapestry, Dovecot completed three 'hearth rugs' with Fabian Miller for the new prestigious Standard Life Investments building in St Andrew Square, Edinburgh.
- Garry Fabian Miller is currently working on a book with Martin Barnes that looks at his evolving practice. Barnes is a long-time collaborator of Fabian Miller's and Senior Curator of Photography at the V&A.
- Gustave Le Gray, perhaps the most important French photographer of the 19th century, brought imagination and technical innovation to bear on the process of picture making. At a time when it was still impossible to bring sea and sky together in the same picture, he made seascapes by using one negative for the water and another for the sky.
- The tapestry *Voyage into the deepest, darkest blue* is available for purchase, and sales enquiries should be directed to info@dovecotstudios.com.

About Garry Fabian Miller:

Garry Fabian Miller has a deserved reputation as one of the most progressive artists working with photography today. Much of Miller's early work was landscape based. He gained international acclaim in the 1970s for his photographs of sky, land and sea, particularly for the series titled *Sea Horizons of England* that were first shown at the Arnolfini Gallery in 1979.

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. Miller is represented in numerous private and public collections worldwide including Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Government Art Collection London, Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, and Kasama Nichido Museum of Art, Tokyo. The Victoria and Albert Museum London has the largest public collection of his work, gathered over thirty years. In 2019 a retrospective exhibition takes places at the Musem of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California. Since the winter of 1989 Garry Fabian Miller has lived with his family on Dartmoor in the South West of England.

Exhibition events:

Information regarding the *Voyage* supporting exhibition events programme can be accessed via: <https://dovecotstudios.com/programme/> or by contacting info@dovecotstudios.com.

Press release image credit: Garry Fabian Miller, *Voyage into the deepest, darkest blue* (detail), 2017, wool, cotton warp, woven at Dovecot Tapestry Studio by David Cochrane, Naomi Robertson, Emma Jo Webster and Rudi Richardson, 250 x 300cm

For press information, early access and images:

Lizzie Cowan, Marketing & Communications Manager

lizziecowan@dovecotstudios.com T: 0131 550 3660 W: www.dovecotstudios.com

Dovecot Studios 10 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LT.

Supported by:



About Dovecot Studios:

Dovecot Tapestry Studio

Dovecot Tapestry Studio is a world-renowned producer of hand-woven tapestry and gun-tufted rugs. Continuing a century-long heritage of making and collaboration with leading international contemporary artists, the Studio weavers are dedicated to producing extraordinary and engaging works of art by commission from private and public collectors from across the globe.

Dovecot Gallery

Dovecot Gallery is a landmark centre for contemporary art, craft and design built around a leading international tapestry studio. Occupying an extraordinary building in the heart of Edinburgh, the Gallery works to programme, commission and produce exhibitions and events for audiences and clients who share Dovecot's passion for making and the creative arts.

Dovecot Foundation

Dovecot Foundation exists to champion Dovecot Tapestry Studio and its place in the world of contemporary art, design and making. The Foundation puts the Studio at the heart of this mission in supporting the Dovecot Apprenticeship Programme, collaborations with leading artists from around the world and development of cultural and educational partnerships. Ultimately, the Foundation seeks to bring the innovative work of contemporary artists and makers to a wider audience.

History

Dovecot Studios was founded in 1912 by the Marquess of Bute, a patron of the arts. The first weavers at Dovecot, Gordon Berry and John Glassbrook, came from the renowned William Morris Studios at Merton Abbey in Wimbledon. Dovecot's first commission was for a series of monumental tapestries for the Marquess' own home at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute.

In 1946, the Studios were incorporated as The Edinburgh Tapestry Company. Dovecot soon became established as a leading contemporary fine art tapestry studio, with works commissioned for major public, corporate and academic institutions worldwide. As a key player in the renaissance of tapestry in the 20th century, Dovecot's Master Weavers worked with many leading contemporary artists including David Hockney, Henry Moore, Frank Stella and RB Kitaj.

Dovecot's Master Weavers continue to work to commission, producing tapestry and tufted rugs for private and public collectors. Major tapestry projects include Chris Ofili's *The Caged Bird's Song* exhibited at the National Gallery and commissioned by The Clothworker's Company, Alison Watt's *Butterfly* for Scottish Opera's new Theatre Royal, Peter Saville's *Monarch of the Glen* and Magne Furuholmen's *Glass Onion*. Working with artists such as Linder, Than Clark and Garry Fabian Miller on recent rug commissions have further tested the boundaries of creativity.