

MEDIA RELEASE

4 to 27 April 2024



Julien Playoust **Landscape, Existence**

Curated by David Fairbairn and Suzanne Archer

Opening event
Saturday 6 April 2-4pm

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery presents *Landscape, Existence*, the inaugural exhibition for artist Julien Playoust. Living between urban and rural spheres, Playoust recognizes the fragility of our connections to the world, emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between figures and land. His process involves tackling personally significant subjects, constantly refining his marks, and delving into the surface to navigate the image. His practice comes from a life-long discipline of drawing from life, reading, and researching the masters. Inspired by artists such as Walter Sickert, Francis Bacon and Philip Guston, Playoust infuses vibrancy into his figurative works and an understanding of the crucial interplay between background and foreground in his landscapes. For him, landscape and existence are intertwined narratives, reflecting the dynamics of living in time and place, encompassing personal, familial, communal, and environmental coexistence. Playoust's work compassionately addresses the vulnerability of our world, bravely incorporating personal relationships, notably exploring the aging process of his parents.

This exhibition is a testament to those uncompromising talents and Julien Playoust's hard work ethic, which make it a really immersive experience. Each mark, approach, line and idea has been pushed to its limit. He's an artist that uses his skills in an interesting way and brings something new to the table each time. There is a glowing vibrancy of marks in his figurative works. Quote from catalogue text by artist Steve Lopez

<https://julienplayoust.com/>

Short Statement

Julien Playoust - 4- 27 April 2024

Artist Julien Playoust's work delves into the tactile dimensions of landscape and human existence, echoing themes of frailty and loss. His art unveil unconscious revelations, capturing the energy and essence of a place—an exploration of the soul. Inspired by Sickert, Bacon and Guston, he prioritizes the visceral experience. This inaugural show reflects Playoust's years of creative exploration.

 Grace
CossingtonSmithGallery
Abbotsleigh,
Gate 7 1666 Pacific Highway,
Wahroonga NSW 2076

Gallery opening times:
Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Social Media:

f <https://www.facebook.com/gcsgallery>
@gcsгалley

MEDIA contact:
Mary Faith, 02 9473 7878
gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

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. Enter via Gate 7 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery respects and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and acknowledges the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose deep connection to culture and customs have cared for this country.



Landscape, Existence 1 (Ghosts in the landscape), 2020-21, oil and charcoal on board, 40 x 60.5 cm



Landscape II, 2021, Oil on canvas on board, 61 x 51 cm



The Landscape Codex: 15. Four trees and a stump, 2019, charcoal and chalk on paper, 30 x 42 cm



Crutching I, 2020, charcoal and gouache on paper, 41 x 31 cm



left: *Father Interior (my dad) 2022-23, oil on canvas on ply, 58 x 48 cm*
right: *Mother landscape, 2021, oil on board, 40 x 30 cm*



The Landscape Codex 5: Old man, family group and trees, 2019, graphite, chalk, pastel, gouache, sepia and watercolour on paper, 30 x 84 cm