

Land of the Golden Fleece— Arthur Streeton in the Western District

A Geelong Gallery exhibition, 27 February to 13 June 2016

Opening: Friday 26 February (by invitation only)

Geelong Gallery is delighted to present *Land of the Golden Fleece—Arthur Streeton in the Western District*, a major exhibition of exquisite landscape paintings of Victoria's Western District by one of Australia's foremost and much-loved artists, Arthur Streeton. On display from February to June, this exhibition focuses on the Geelong-born artist's work from the years 1920-32, following his return from an extended period in Europe.

Bringing together some 30 paintings from public and private collections including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Gallery of Victoria, National Gallery of Australia and Geelong Gallery, and curated by the Gallery in consultation with acknowledged Streeton expert Geoffrey Smith, *Land of the Golden Fleece* depicts locations in Victoria's Western District frequented by the artist—Dunkeld, Halls Gap and the Grampians, as well as western coastal locations such as Lorne and Port Campbell—this vividly coloured and virtuoso series will, collectively, be a revelation for audiences. Two of the three paintings titled *Land of the Golden Fleece* will be seen together for the first time since their initial exhibition in Melbourne in 1927.

Undoubtedly one of Australia's most significant painters, Streeton came to prominence alongside fellow Australian Impressionist painters including Frederick McCubbin, Tom Roberts and Charles Conder in the 9x5 *Impressions* exhibition of 1889. In 1891, the painting *Golden summer, Eaglemont* (1889) was exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, and hung 'on the line' to widespread acclaim.





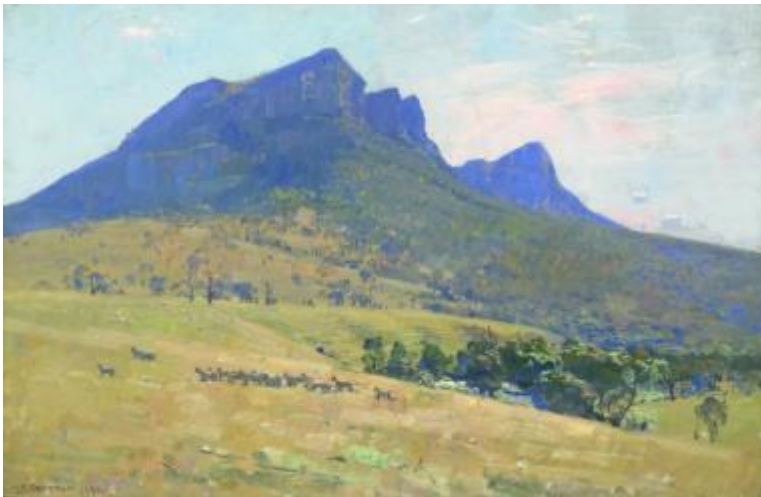
Between 1897 and 1920 Streeton lived in London visiting France and Italy, and making return trips to Australia where he staged successful exhibitions of his work and re-engaged with the Australian landscape. He was appointed an official Australian war artist during the First World War. After returning permanently to Australia in 1920, Streeton continued painting grand Australian vistas as well as more intimate subjects such as still-life compositions and his own garden in the Melbourne suburb of Toorak.

His works capture the fleeting effects of light and atmosphere in nature to dazzling effect, and in 2015, his work *Blue Pacific* (1890), depicting cliffs and the sea at Coogee in Sydney, became the first painting by an Australian featured at London's National Gallery.

Geelong Gallery Director, **Geoffrey Edwards**, said,

'Geelong is often cited as a "gateway to the Western District", making this exhibition a natural project for the Geelong Gallery. The Gallery's collection has a strong focus on early images of the Geelong region and includes iconic works such as Streeton's *Ocean blue, Lorne* (1921), which features in *Land of the Golden Fleece*.'

Land of the Golden Fleece—Arthur Streeton in the Western District will be exhibited exclusively at Geelong Gallery from Saturday 27 February to Monday 13 June 2016.



Captions –

1. **Arthur Streeton**
Ocean blue (Lorne) 1921
oil on canvas
Collection: Geelong Gallery, Victoria
Purchased with funds generously provided by Geelong Art Gallery Foundation, Robert Salzer Foundation Art Program, Geelong Community Foundation, Will & Dorothy Bailey Charitable Gift and numerous individual donors, 2011
2. **Jack Cato** (photographer)
Arthur Streeton c. 1932
Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria, Jack Cato Collection. Gift of Mr John Cato, 1996
3. **Arthur Streeton**
Land of the Golden Fleece 1926
oil on canvas
Collection: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
The Oscar Paul Collection, Gift of Henriette von Dallwitz and of Richard Paul in honour of his father 1965
Image courtesy of the National Gallery of Australia
4. **Arthur Streeton**
The Grampians (Mount Abrupt) 1921
oil on canvas
Collection: National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Presented by Rio Tinto Limited through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2013
Image courtesy of the National Gallery of Victoria

Entry to Land of the Golden Fleece—Arthur Streeton in the Western District

Adults \$13

Members \$10

Concession \$10

Children \$5

Book online or purchase upon entry.

Media Contact

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Mr. Allan Myers AO QC