

**John Young: *Eternal Transformation***  
**Philip Bacon Galleries, 25 August – 19 September 2015**

*The way this world is seen  
As real by those afar  
Is not so seen by those nearby  
(formless) like a mirage*

Nagarjuna

The moment when a caterpillar changes into a moth, deformation and reformation exists side by side. Time continues to change outside of the cocoon. We see the transformation of a caterpillar into a moth, but what is inside the cocoon knows now what it is. There is a sublime, metaphysical and indescribable paradox between the one state and the other – and this change heralds two different qualities of time. Within this change, there is a melancholy. This transformation, once recognised, will never see the world of forms the same again. In this transformation, form leads to a great formlessness and then back to form yet again. And so the world goes, not kept still in ideal forms, but eternally and melancholically transforming. Perhaps like for *scuola metafisica* artist de Chirico, it is that moment before the clock strikes twelve. Over the years, groups of new abstract paintings have come to life in the studio – with their resonances, their remembrances and re-imaginings of images and times past. From the Northern Sun sil paintings to the hermit-wanderer Fairweather, the paintings faithfully fossick for worthy reminiscence for this new century. Re-thought and re-felt. And with the figurative works – now that the solid has vanished – we are left again with the ethereal, the angelix, and the eternal transforming of the figure. The anima is ready for the ocean's crossing, the eternal transforming of the figure image. Yet what is most dear is not lost: the union. The union of one state to another, on time to another, figure to surface, paint to canvas.

John Young Winter 2015.