

WINTER 2026 EXHIBITIONS

2026 is a special year for Grundy Art Gallery and for Blackpool. Not only is it 115 years since the Grundy opened its doors, and 150 years since Blackpool was incorporated as an independent Borough, but it is also 100 years since The 1926 Blackpool Jubilee; an event that celebrated Blackpool's incorporation with, amongst other things, a civic parade, and the opening of the award-winning Stanley Park.

As a word, the term 'incorporation' has a rich history, originating from Latin, it means 'to form into a body' (corpus meaning 'body'). In addition to recognising 2026's milestone moments as described above, the Grundy will, throughout the year, also be exploring notions of the 'body'; from its physical and natural form (bodies of water, bodies of land, human bodies), to community in action and collective endeavour; (bodies of people, public bodies).

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: 1926

This exhibition brings together items on loan from SHOWTOWN History Centre and paintings from the Grundy Art Gallery Collection. Taking the year 1926 as its theme, the exhibition presents artworks purchased by The County Borough of Blackpool in 1926 alongside items linked to civic celebration.

OPEN 2026

Written into the founding documents of Grundy Art Gallery is a commitment to show the art of the day. 115 years later the Grundy continues to honour this promise with an annual open exhibition.

With no selection criteria and no fee to enter anyone aged 16 years and over from Blackpool and the Fylde Coast can submit their work for display. In keeping with our commitment to show the art of the day the work must, however, have been made within the last twelve months and not shown at the Grundy before. Join us to celebrate the 115th birthday of Grundy Art Gallery with the largest Open Exhibition to date.

JAYNE SIMPSON - LION A Turning Point Exhibition.

Turning Point is Grundy Art Gallery's ongoing programme of solo exhibition opportunities given to artists living and working in Blackpool and the Fylde Coast. These opportunities support an artist at a particular point in their career, where a solo exhibition opportunity can catalyse artistic and career development.

Jayne Simpson's solo exhibition, LION, sees the artist painting at an increased scale and painting both on and off the canvas. Using this opportunity to explore the medium of expanded painting, Simpson encourages visitors to experience LION as installation, sculpture and environment. For LION, Simpson has continued to explore her own emotional landscape and her lived experience and with her trademark tenderness has turned this personal history into visual stories that are universally understood.

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: A Body of Work

For our second Collection Spotlight exhibition artist Jayne Simpson and Grundy's Curator, have curated a display of works from Grundy's collection using themes in Simpson's work.