



GRUNDY ART GALLERY



Prime Time, Rob Crosse (2017)

New commission and exhibition: Rob Crosse, *Prime Time*

Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool, 1 April - 3 June 2017

Preview: Saturday 1 April, 2.30 - 5pm

www.fvu.co.uk/projects/prime-time

Prime Time is the title of both a new film commission and the first major solo exhibition in a public gallery by the artist Rob Crosse. Through his films and photographs, Crosse studies the collective and private behaviour within organised social groups made up predominantly of men. Focusing his attention towards amateur societies, such as a slot car racing club or a railway signalling group, Crosse spends long periods of time with the participants who become the eventual subjects of his work. Through this research and personal involvement, his work becomes a platform from which to construct intimate and reflective portraits while unearthing unexpected moments of exchange between his subjects.

Crosse's latest film *Prime Time* (2017) will be shown for the first time in the exhibition and has been commissioned by FVU with Grundy Art Gallery. The film focuses on a group of older gay men who are part of a social society called 'Prime Timers' as they undertake an organised cruise. The filming of the ship's interminable journey towards the horizon becomes an allegory for the search these men undertake by coming together to enrich their lives through communal activity. *Prime Time* examines what it means to be in the prime of one's life and seeks to challenge the hyper-visibility of youth, and its primacy as a measure of desirability, to the exclusion of older bodies.

Alongside the presentation of his work, Crosse has selected works from the Grundy's collection to display in an adjoining room. This is intended to act as a prelude to his work and to draw out threads from the films that relate to themes and concerns found within the gallery's collection, and vice-versa. The exhibition coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the de-criminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales and celebrates the LGBTQ community who live in, work and visit the resort of Blackpool.

- Ends -

For further information and image requests, please contact

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Commissioning credit line

Prime Time was commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, with Grundy Art Gallery. Supported by Arts Council England.

About Rob Crosse

This exhibition will be the first major solo exhibition in a public gallery for Rob Crosse. Having studied Photography first at Bournemouth, Crosse later moved to do a Masters in Fine Art at the Slade. He has previously exhibited internationally at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, Nebraska, USA (2016); Research Centre at IMCA, Dublin, Ireland (2014); Katara Art Center, Doha, Qatar (2013) and the Jerwood, Londonnewcastle Project Space and Charlie Smith, all London (2013). His films have been screened at HOME, Manchester (2016) as well as the ICA, London (2015); 1ShantiRoad, Bangalore, India (2015) and Chisenhale Gallery, London (2012).

www.robrosse.com

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. www.fvu.co.uk

Grundy Art Gallery is Blackpool's art gallery and offers a year round programme of contemporary and visual art exhibitions and events including solo and group exhibitions together with talks, workshops and educational activities. The programme seeks to explore the space between popular culture and contemporary art, and also works with artists and members of the public to activate its historic and eclectic collection in new and surprising ways. The gallery is housed in a Grade II listed Carnegie building and has a collection that was founded in 1908, following a bequest by brothers John and Cuthbert Grundy. Today the collection includes works by Sir Peter Blake, Ruth Claxton, Martin Creed, Tracey Emin, Laura Ford, Gilbert and George, Brian Griffiths, Augustus John, Haroon Mirza, Heather Phillipson, Eric Ravilious and Yinka Shonibare MBE.

Recent exhibitions at the gallery by artists working with film and video have included major solo shows for Mark Leckey (2016), Jennet Thomas (2015), Heather Phillipson (2014) and Matt Stokes (2013). Further exhibitions have included the major group exhibitions NEON: The Charged Line (2016) and Sensory Systems (2015), and Modern History vol. I, curated by Lynda Morris. Grundy Art Gallery is part of Blackpool Council's Arts Service and also receives regular funding as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations. www.grundyartgallery.com

Social media

@FilmVidUmbrella @GrundyBlackpool #PrimeTime

Listing details

Artist: Rob Crosse
Title: Rob Crosse, *Prime Time*
Dates: 1 April - 3 June 2017
Address: Grundy Art Gallery, Queen Street, Blackpool, FY1 1PU
Opening times: 10am – 5pm Tuesday - Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday.
Admission: Free

Press Images

(Continue overleaf)



Image 1:

Prime Time, Rob Crosse (2017)
Image courtesy of FVU and
Grundy Art Gallery



Image 2:

Prime Time, Rob Crosse (2017)
Image courtesy of FVU and
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Press Images



Image 3:

Prime Time, Rob Crosse (2017)
Image courtesy of FVU and
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Image 4:

Prime Time, Rob Crosse (2017)
Image courtesy of FVU and
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Image 5:

Prime Time, Rob Crosse (2017)
Image courtesy of FVU and
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