

THE BROWN COLLECTION

Fail We May, Sail We Must

25 September 2026 – 7 August 2027



Fiona Rae, *Untitled (pale blue)*, 1990-1991



Glenn Brown, *Fail We May, Sail We Must*, 2022 (detail)

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Six centuries of works which reveal themselves on a second look.

Featured artists include Salvador Dalí, Marion Adnams, Anthony Caro, George Condo, Grace Pailthorpe, Fiona Rae, Glenn Brown, George Romney and Walter Sickert.

This autumn, The Brown Collection presents *Fail We May, Sail We Must*, a new exhibition full of works which reveal themselves as you look deeper within them.

Curated by British artist Glenn Brown and his husband and museum co-founder, Edgar Laguinia, the exhibition presents a collection of historic and contemporary paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints and ceramics, featuring spliced collages, double images and elongated and deceptive figures. Full of playfulness and humour – and spanning six centuries – the exhibition illustrates how art can challenge and reveal the workings of the mind.

Fail We May, Sail We Must runs from 25 September 2026 - 7 August 2027 at The Brown Collection, a free public museum in Marylebone, London. For more information, please visit the website [here](#).

Unfolding thematically across the four floors of the museum, *Fail We May, Sail We Must* creates new connections between works that are not usually seen alongside each other.

Artists: Marion Adnams (1898–1995), Philip Akkerman (b. 1957), Glenn Brown (b. 1966), Anthony Caro (1924–2013), George Condo (b. 1957), Dado (1933–2010), Salvador Dalí (1904–1989), Henri Fantin-Latour

(1836–1904), Hendrick Goltzius (1558–1617), Ann-Marie James (b. 1981), Reuben Mednikoff (1906–1972), Jan Harmensz Muller (1571–1628), Grace Pailthorpe (1883–1971), Francis Picabia (1879–1953), Fiona Rae (b. 1963), Henry Raeburn (1756–1823), George Romney (1734–1802), Walter Sickert (1860–1942), Philip Wilson Steer (1860–1942), John Stezaker (b. 1949), Rebecca Warren (b. 1965) and Albert Victor Ormsby Wood (1904–1977).

The ninety featured works slowly reveal their meanings to the attentive eye; a sculpture by Anthony Caro appears abstract, then as an uneasy figure falling off a table; Rebecca Warren's sculpture can appear both geological and anatomical; John Stezaker's collages splice postcards and film stills into a single, unstable image; Salvador Dalí's double images resolve into two parallel readings; Glenn Brown's giant head turns into a union of bodies and limbs.

The works can be perceived in multiple ways; our eye has to choose, and re-choose, what it sees, each time it lands. This trick is not just a product of modern art movements but is there in the elongated figures of 16th-century Mannerism and 20th-century Surrealism, where some of the most deliberate works are also the most unsettling.

The show includes grand portraits from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, in which masterful representations of the human body reveal character and emotions and contain deeper messages. The exaggerated figures of Albert Victor Ormsby Wood, Jan Harmensz Muller and Hendrick Goltzius distort the body to express feeling; George Condo's portraits reference several viewpoints at once; Fiona Rae's brushstrokes and drips only suggest figures and birds; and Philip Akkerman's decades-long practice of painting self-portraits multiplies a single face into hundreds of characters. Automatic drawing and dream imagery connect the Surrealism of Marion Adnams and Dado with the 1930s psychorealism of Grace Pailthorpe and Reuben Mednikoff.

The Brown Collection is a free public museum in Marylebone, London, housing the personal collection and archive of British artist Glenn Brown alongside his own paintings, drawings and sculpture. It opened in October 2022 in a converted mews building and shows work from the sixteenth century to the present.

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The Brown Collection, 1 Bentinck Mews, London W1U 2AF

Open Wednesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 6pm, free entry, no booking required.

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Notes to editors

Media preview: 23 September 2026, 9am-12 noon

Private View: 24 September 2026, 6-8pm

About Glenn Brown

Glenn Brown (b. 1966, Hexham, England) is a painter and sculptor known for reworking images from art history, from Old Master paintings to science fiction illustration, into new, uncanny forms. A member of the Young British Artists generation, he was included in the Royal Academy Sensation exhibition in 1997 and shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 2000. He founded The Brown Collection with his husband, Edgar Laguinia, in 2022.

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