



Job description

Job title	Curator British Art, 1730 - 1830
Department	Curatorial Department, Tate Britain
Contract	Fixed term (7 months)
Salary	£40,717 per annum
Hours	Full-time, 36 hours per week
Location	Millbank
Reporting to	Manton Senior Curator, Historic British Art
Responsible for	Assistant Curator, Historic British Art

Background

Tate's vision is to serve as artistically adventurous and culturally inclusive art museums for the UK and the world. We deliver this through activities in our four galleries across the UK (Tate Liverpool, Tate St Ives, Tate Britain and Tate Modern), our digital platforms and collaborations with our national and international partners. At the heart of Tate is our collection of art, which includes the national collection of British art from the 16th century to the present day, and international modern and contemporary art from 1900 to the present day, spanning all continents. We seek to expand access to the collection and deepen understanding of art in all its diversity.

Tate is a leading global institution, and we influence critical thinking about art practice. Tate is committed to maintaining free entry for audiences to our collections. We see access to art for everyone as a universal human right and we see our galleries as sites of creative learning. We want to champion the importance of making art and encourage people to explore the many ways in which art is created and develop their own creative potential.

We want to welcome audiences that better reflect the towns and cities in our nation and attract a diverse international public. Our reach is already powerful. We intend to increase its impact across society, with art that resonates around the world.

Everyone who works at Tate has a role to play in achieving these goals. We offer exciting work built around our love for art, and have a strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, with the aim to have our workforce and audience as diverse as the communities we serve. And everything we do is only possible thanks to our fantastic colleagues, who really know their stuff, support each other and want to do the best for our audiences.

We hope you will consider joining our team.

You can find further information about Tate on our website: www.tate.org.uk.

About the role

We are looking for an experienced curator with a focus on the long eighteenth century. This temporary role will see you will work within the Historic British Art team at Tate Britain, reporting to the Manton Senior Curator. This varied role will see you use and share your expertise of the period and project management skills to develop and oversee programmed exhibitions and collection displays. The role will also entail researching and writing texts for Tate's website and supporting the activities of the Historic British team more widely.

You will undertake these activities in alignment with Tate's priorities, including those concerning our audiences, our environmental impact, and our staff values (to be open, bold, rigorous and kind).

About your team

Tate Britain aims to increase public awareness, understanding and enjoyment of British art from the 16th century to the present day.

Tate Britain's Curatorial team is responsible for researching and delivering exhibitions and displays, as well as researching, building and advocating for Tate's Collection of British Art. The Curatorial Department is divided into three teams of curators with period expertise (Historic, Modern and Contemporary), together with a Programme Management team. You will be part of the Historic British Art team, working alongside the Manton Senior Curator, and other Curators and Assistant Curators plus occasional temporary colleagues.

What you will gain

As a specialist in the period 1730–1830, this role offers the chance to work with the one of the world's most important collections of British art from this period. The priority task is to progress and project manage an exhibition programmed for 2027, working with two colleagues from the Historic British Art team. You will be encouraged to contribute ideas, learn new skills, expand your professional network and develop and share your knowledge.

What you will do (Main Duties and Responsibilities)

Exhibitions and Displays

- Develop and project-manage programmed displays and exhibitions
- Lead project teams, which might include external consultants, to deliver projects on-budget, meeting deadlines, and in accordance with Tate policies and procedures
- Work with the International Partnerships team to deliver ongoing touring exhibitions
- Work with colleagues in Tate's Interpretation team on gallery-based interpretation
- Identify works for display changes in the permanent hang
- Provide occasional talks and tours

Collection and Research

Using your specialist knowledge of the period and of its main artists you will:

- Write and edit a variety of texts in a clear, accessible prose and according to Tate house style; work with colleagues to deliver texts in-gallery and online
- Collaborate with curators and key colleagues in other divisions to organise events and research activities centred on our collection and programme
- Work to strict deadlines to provide valuations and expert advice to statutory bodies on Tate's behalf
- Maintain progress on any live research that addresses priorities in the interpretation of Tate's collection, particularly with reference to diversifying the collection and widening the canon
- Administer potential acquisitions in your time period, in accordance with the collection strategy and in collaboration with colleagues in Development
- Generate and update catalogue records and archive files for works within your remit, to ensure the latest historic research is embedded in Tate's collection records
- Maintain good relationships with key stakeholders in ongoing activity (e.g. external curators, academics, collectors, art trade)
- Develop your profile as a specialist in eighteenth-century British Art; attend events as an advocate for the Historic British team, particularly those in your area of curatorial responsibility
- Provide academic supervision and advice where required for doctoral students and others associated with Tate's research programme
- Respond to enquiries in a timely manner

Management and Administration

- Manage, coach and develop the Assistant Curator working to you
- Contribute to the management of curatorial files and archiving

What you will bring to the team

Essential

- Demonstrable specialist knowledge of British art of the long eighteenth-century and its key artists (e.g. Gainsborough, Reynolds, Blake) and its associated scholarship, including new directions in art historical research around this period
- Evidence of a strong art historical research profile in this period and of a commitment to sharing your specialist knowledge
- Significant relevant curatorial experience in an art gallery, museum, or with a collection and a sound understanding of the policies and processes involved
- Excellent writing and presentation skills, and an ability to adapt these to the needs of different audiences
- Experience of the processes involved in staging displays and exhibitions, including managing budgets and delivering to deadlines
- A commitment to audiences and an up-to-date understanding of interpretation strategies
- Experience of line management, supporting the development and wellbeing of direct reports
- Well-developed interpersonal and diplomacy skills with the capacity to lead and negotiate

- Proven track record of collaborative and team-based working, with a commitment to applying principles of equality, diversity and respect for all in the workplace
- Excellent organisation, planning and administrative skills, with ability to prioritise and coordinate multiple activities
- Computer literacy – ability to use standard PC applications, as well as collections databases (TMS is used at Tate)
- Interest in and commitment to Tate's work, vision, objectives and values.

Desirable

- Knowledge of Tate's collection
- Experience of teaching and/or mentoring in the context of academic or curatorial work supervising PhDs.

The requirements listed here are guidelines, not hard and fast rules. You don't have to satisfy every requirement and we welcome candidates who bring transferable skills. Applying gives you the opportunity to be considered.

Tate for all

Diversity and Inclusion

Our jobs are like our galleries, open to all.

Our aim is to become a truly inclusive organisation with a workforce and audience as diverse as the communities we serve. This is fundamental to Tate's future success and our ability to continue to contribute to culture and society in the UK.

We want our workforce to be more representative of all sections of society at all levels in the organisation. The range of perspectives and experience diversity brings is an asset to our organisation and we want to create an inclusive, welcoming environment for visitors, artists and all those who work at Tate. Tate expects all employees to contribute to this aim as part of their role. More information about diversity and inclusion at Tate can be found on our [website](#).

Our Values

- **Open:** we're welcoming, generous-spirited and inquisitive, with an open-source attitude that thrives on collaboration.
- **Bold:** we have the courage of our convictions, we're willing to take imaginative risks: we aren't afraid of failure - so long as we learn from it.
- **Rigorous:** we'll win people's trust if we're accountable for our actions and excellence underpins everything we do.
- **Kind:** we value and respect each other, our partners, and our visitors, striving to make every encounter memorable and enriching.

Benefits

- Birthdays off each year.
- A pension scheme with generous employer contributions.
- Life Assurance and Income Protection for DC scheme members.

- Interest-free Season Ticket Loan.
- Cycle to Work scheme – enabling you to buy a bike in a tax efficient way, for travelling to and from work.
- Rental deposit scheme – an interest free advance to help towards the cost of a deposit for privately rented accommodation.
- Subsidised staff catering arrangements and discounts in the Tate Restaurants and Cafes.
- Access to Tate Benefits which offers access to discounts in high street stores.
- Access to a 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme to support you with any work, personal or family issues. This includes telephone-based support, as well as comprehensive online resources.
- Free entry to paying exhibitions at Tate Galleries. Opportunities for family and friends to visit the major exhibitions out-of-hours.
- Discounts on items purchased in the Tate shops.
- Free access to a number of other galleries and museums throughout the UK on production of a valid staff pass.
- Free access to other galleries and museums abroad through the International Council of Museums (ICOM) membership.

Safer Recruitment

Tate is committed to providing a safe environment for all those who work at Tate and all those who come into contact with Tate as visitors to the galleries, as participants in Tate activities, and online. The safe recruitment of all those who undertake work on behalf of Tate is the first step to ensuring that we are fulfilling this commitment.

All positions at Tate are offered subject to the following conditions:

- Receipt of satisfactory references covering the last 3 years of your employment or education.
- Health clearance
- A satisfactory Disclosure Check.
- Proof that you are legally entitled to work in the UK

You can find out more information about our pre-employment checks and what they mean for you in our 'Guidance Notes for Applicants' document.

How to apply

Our opportunities are open for you to apply online. Please visit: www.tate.org.uk/about/workingattate/ to create an account by registering your details or, if you are an existing user, log into your account.

For all opportunities we ask candidates to complete an online application form for the vacancy they are interested in. If you need an application form in an alternative format please call us on 020 7887 4997. Once you have submitted your application you can keep track of its progress by logging into your account.

The closing date for the submission of completed application forms is 23 March 2025 by midnight.

Where vacancies attract large volumes of applicants, we reserve the right to close this vacancy early. Therefore, if you are interested, please try to submit your application as early as possible.

