



Job description

Job title	Curator, Contemporary British Art
Department	Curatorial, Tate Britain
Contract	Permanent
Salary	£40,717 per annum
Hours	Full-time, 36 hours per week
Location	Millbank, London
Reporting to	Senior Curator, Contemporary British Art
Responsible for	Assistant Curator/s and, if required, apprentice, Intern or Curatorial Assistant

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

This role will suit an accomplished and knowledgeable curator, committed to new and recent developments in contemporary art in the UK, and interested in working in the context of a museum and collection whose remit stretches back many centuries. You will take an inclusive, innovative and often transnational approach to developing and delivering various aspects of Tate Britain's artistic programme – which encompasses exhibitions, collection displays and new commission – and to researching and acquiring new acquisitions by living British artists for the Collection. This is a role that combines curatorial and research excellence with strong project management skills. The role involves leading projects as well as working with many teams across Tate, according to Tate Britain's artistic and audience priorities and the vision, values and strategy of Tate. You will be a skilled line manager and active team player.

About your team

The aim of Tate Britain is to increase public awareness, understanding and enjoyment of British art from the 16th century to the present day, and of international modern and contemporary art. Our artistic strategy is to relate art to society, the past to the present, and Britain to the world, in order to present an inclusive picture of art made in Britain.

The Curatorial Division at Tate Britain is responsible for researching and delivering loan exhibitions, Collection displays and new commissions by contemporary artists, and for researching and building Tate's Collection of British art.

The contemporary team, working in dialogue with curators across the division, is focused on new developments in British art, and the recent history of art made in Britain (late C20 and early C21). This encompasses projects such as Art Now, the Turner Prize, and the biannual commissions in the Duveen galleries, as well as major loan exhibitions and changes to Collection displays. The contemporary period is also the most active for Collection acquisitions.

What you will gain

You will play a significant role in Tate Britain's focus on narrating the changing story of British art in our times, both through building Tate's Collection and by developing and delivering elements of our artistic programme, while making this relevant and engaging to large and increasingly diverse audiences. You will have the opportunity to identify and work with emerging artists, established and internationally-recognised artists, as well as artists who have been under-recognised or marginalised over the past few decades. You will have the opportunity to do this work in dialogue with colleagues with expertise in the longer history of British art. You will gain further experience in both curating and project managing at different scales at a major public venue, and in collaborating with specialist colleagues from across the organisation.

What you will do (Main Duties and Responsibilities)

Exhibitions, Commissions and Displays:

Within the framework of the programme priorities at Tate Britain, led by the Director, Tate Britain and the Director of Exhibition and Displays, and reporting to the Senior Curator of Contemporary British Art, you will:

- Contribute to the planning and development of a diverse programme of exhibitions, commissions and displays at Tate Britain towards a rich visitor experience.
- Conceive, develop and lead exhibitions, commissions and displays, managing projects, supervising Assistant Curators and liaising across departments, to ensure smooth completion according to Tate's goals and the highest international standards.
- Work with external stakeholders on the development and execution of outstanding exhibitions, Collection displays and commissions, such as the bi-annual commission in the Duveen Galleries and the Duveen Sculpture Collection display.
- Liaise closely with artists, their studios and representatives to facilitate the realisation of their projects at Tate Britain.
- Mentor and supervise Assistant Curators delivering displays such as Art Now, contemporary collection installations and collection interventions in other period rooms.
- Write informative and scholarly texts for Tate exhibition catalogues, conceiving and editing books in close collaboration with colleagues in Tate Publishing.
- Work with colleagues on appropriate interpretation strategies, writing and compiling accessible texts for exhibitions and displays and delivering supporting talks, tours and other events.
- Maintain awareness of exhibition practice and innovation nationally and internationally.
- Act as a key project contact for Tate teams, providing material and information as required to support fundraising, internal and external communications as well as practical delivery.
- Work sustainably, innovatively, and collaboratively to research and develop solutions to reduce the carbon emissions associated with Tate Britain's programme, supporting Tate's institutional commitment to reduce its carbon impact.

Project Management:

- When curating projects, lead on their project management across the development, production and delivery of commissions and complex, multi-disciplinary exhibitions working to the highest production standards from conception to close and deinstallation.
- Communicate effectively with internal and external stakeholders to proactively engage their support and contribution to the project.
- Working with the Senior Design and Production Manager and in consultation with the Head of Programme Management and Business, advise on the practical and financial feasibility at project conception and work to find creative and practical solutions to assist with content decisions.
- With the Senior Design and Production Manager identify internal and external staffing needs and, in consultation with Tate colleagues, source and hire temporary expertise ensuring appropriate contracts are in place.
- Devise project timelines, identifying and managing key deadlines and coordinating workflow and communication across internal and external teams.
- Maintain key project documents to support effective tracking and evaluation of projects.
- Effectively manage, control and communicate change to the project plan, timeline and budget, reporting to the Head of Programme Management and Business and Director of Exhibitions and Displays.
- Schedule regular production and logistics meetings, ensuring effective and collaborative liaison across Tate teams and departments, and coordination with external contributors.
- Oversee and ensure the timely coordination of any project fabrication, transportation, insurance or indemnity, installation and deinstallation.

Collection:

Within the strategic framework of acquisitions led by the Director of the British Collection and reporting to the Senior Curator of Contemporary British Art you will:

- Apply a high level of specialist expertise on contemporary British art, including awareness of the art market and current valuations, across collections activity at Tate.

- Propose, research and write about acquisitions in the clear language of the Tate house style, ranging from trustee notes to online text, in rigorous consideration of acquisitions strategy and procedures.
- Maintain and develop a network of contacts among artists, estates, galleries, collectors, critics, auction houses and benefactors to support acquisitions relationships and fundraising.
- Supervise Assistant Curators' (volunteer, intern and Curatorial Assistant on occasion) research on contemporary British Art and acquisition causes.
- Liaise with modern and contemporary curatorial colleagues on a regular programme of studio and exhibition visits across the UK towards developing collecting priorities.
- Work across departments on the stewardship of the Collection, maintaining and updating knowledge on works of art in the Collection.
- Support outward loans from the Collection, both internationally and nationally.

Research:

Within the context of Tate's research programme and goals and working with other team members as required, you will:

- Develop and share your specialist expertise on contemporary British art and its wider contexts (social, cultural, political, economic, and international).
- Contribute to critical thinking on questions of decolonisation, race and empire, relating to all activities, including cataloguing and interpretation of the collection.
- Provide academic supervision where required, for doctoral and other students associated with Tate's research programme.
- Contribute to the wider research culture at Tate and beyond through participation in conferences and symposia, published and online material and public speaking.
- Cultivate the research skills and knowledge of the Assistant Curators working to you, and other colleagues as appropriate.
- Give expert advice to external bodies, as required.

Administration and General Duties:

To assist with the smooth running of the department and to contribute to the achievement of departmental goals, you will:

- Develop, coach and manage one or more Assistant Curators as line manager and supervise interns or volunteers when required.

- Attend Tate events; represent Tate and Tate Britain Curatorial department both within and beyond Tate.
- Take on administration-related tasks and participate in recruitment, when required.
- Ensure projects are delivered within the allocated budget through efficient forecasting and budget administration, working to secure the best value without compromising high standards of presentation.
- Work with the Senior Programme Manager to negotiate contractual arrangements with all parties associated with producing and delivering exhibitions and commissions including the artist and their representatives.

What you will bring to the team

Essential:

- Significant and broad experience of curatorial work in an art gallery or museum or equivalent setting, both in making exhibitions and working with collections.
- Substantial proven project management skills including extensive experience of the processes involved in staging collection displays and exhibitions, as well as producing new work, including managing budgets according to deadlines.
- Demonstrable experience of working successfully with artists, their studios and their gallery representatives.
- Specialist knowledge of contemporary British art, current critical debates about museums and collections and good knowledge of international contemporary art.
- Curatorial flair - a track record of devising and delivering exhibitions with imagination and distinction.
- Excellent writing skills in English, including the capacity to write authoritative texts for a specialist readership as well as accessible texts for diverse audiences.
- Excellent organisational, planning and administrative skills, with ability to prioritise and coordinate multiple activities, including managing budgets according to deadlines.
- Outstanding interpersonal and influencing skills with the ability to communicate, mediate, negotiate and develop effective working relations with a wide range of stakeholders and multi-disciplinary teams at all levels.
- Experience of contributing to an inclusive and respectful culture within a team and applying the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion in all relationships with colleagues, artists, advocates, and partners/donors.
- Proven ability to work proactively and independently.

- A well-developed understanding of the issues involved in the production and presentation of artworks in a public space, including operational, ongoing maintenance and Health & Safety regulations.
- The ability and willingness to travel and to attend out of hours functions, as required, to meet Tate's objectives.
- Post-graduate qualification or equivalent experience with a record of publication on relevant topics.
- An interest in and commitment to the work of Tate vision, objectives and values.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of Tate's Collection.
- Knowledge of the scope of UK and international collections as they relate to Tate.
- A PhD in a relevant subject and/or experience of teaching and/or mentoring in the context of curatorial work.
- Experience of working with 3D modelling software.
- Experience of producing artworks and projects in a wide variety of media and settings, including outdoors.

The requirements listed here are guidelines, not hard and fast-fixed rules. You do not have to satisfy every requirement, and we welcome candidates who brings 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
- 25 days leave per year, rising to 27 (pro rata for part time colleagues)
- 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 12 December 2024 by midnight. Interviews will be held on week commencing 6 January 2025.

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.

