

# Brooks International Fellowship Programme 2024

**DELFINA  
FOUNDATION**



## Open Call

Tate, in collaboration with Delfina Foundation, invites applications for the Brooks International Fellowship Programme 2024. Now in its tenth year, the programme enables visual arts professionals to work with Tate colleagues in London for six months in 2024, complemented by activities at Delfina Foundation.

## 2024 Programme

In 2024, there will be three Brooks International Fellows:

- Fellow in Tate's **Collection Management Department** (2 April – 15 September 2024)
- Fellow in Tate's **Visitor Communications Department** (2 April – 15 September 2024)
- Fellow in **Tate Modern Curatorial Division** (8 July – 22 December 2024)

During this time, the Fellow will be part of a Tate team, actively participating in gallery projects and discussions, with special access to Tate's programme, collection, staff and wider networks.

The Fellow will reside at Delfina Foundation, where they will contribute to its own programme by presenting on their research or practice to a range of audiences and contributing to Delfina Foundation's public programme.

The Brooks International Fellowships are made possible by the generous support of the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation.

[www.rebrooksfoundation.org.uk](http://www.rebrooksfoundation.org.uk)

## Programme Background

The Brooks International Fellowship Programme was founded in 2014 and is fully funded by the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation. Since 2014, Tate and Delfina Foundation have hosted 19 Brooks International Fellows from Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Thailand, and the USA.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/research/brooks-international-fellowship-programme>

## About Tate

Tate's vision is to champion art and its value to society. We do 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 British art from the 16th century to the present day, and international modern art from 1900 to the present day. Tate is developing its work internationally, collecting and showing art from as wide a geographical reach as possible, deepening knowledge through international research, and engaging with a global community of artists, curators, researchers and visual art practitioners.

[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

## About Delfina Foundation

Delfina Foundation is an independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to fostering artistic talent and facilitating exchange through residencies and public programmes ranging from workshops to exhibitions, both in the UK and with international partners. Delfina Foundation's residency programme is structured around seasons, which are: open - dedicated to supporting independent projects without particular outcomes or thematic - concentrated on specific issues or ideas.

Residents at Delfina Foundation are provided with single occupancy rooms for the duration of the Brooks International Fellowship Programme. Occasional, short visits from residents' family members are permitted by prior arrangement.

[www.delfinafoundation.com](http://www.delfinafoundation.com)

# 2024 Brooks International Fellowship Opportunities

The successful candidates will receive:

- A **six-month Fellowship based at Tate** in London, UK, with supported travel to Tate sites and other UK cultural institutions
- Participation in the **residency programme at Delfina Foundation**, including accommodation at its residency in central London
- **Funding** in the form of economy return flights, visa support, a bursary of £40 per diem and travel allowance
- Access to **Tate's collection, archive, staff and networks**
- **Opportunities to present on their practice** at Tate and Delfina Foundation events, and contribute to wider activities at both organisations
- **Opportunities to collaborate and convene** with Tate and Delfina Foundation colleagues and exchange with wider UK partners in the British art sector.

Who is the Brooks International Fellowship for?

- The programme is for **international practitioners** who have expertise in the visual arts or subject areas relevant to the Fellowship
- It is aimed at candidates **based outside of the UK**, to allow them to **learn from the cultural sector in the UK** and so that they can **bring their expertise of working in other regions** to Tate
- Candidates can be at **any stage of their career development**; we encourage applications from **established and mid-career practitioners**
- Candidates are **not expected to have experience in academic research**. They may hold or be studying for Masters degrees or PhDs, but this is not a requirement in order to qualify for the programme
- Candidates should **have an interest in undertaking research in museums** and be open to working alongside colleagues in a **large, complex, busy institution**
- Candidates should undertake the Fellowship in the spirit of a **mutually beneficial cultural and professional exchange** with Tate.

## Brooks International Fellowship in Tate's Collection Management Department

This is a fantastic opportunity for a Fellow to work with Tate's Collection Management team from April to September 2024. The Fellow will be hosted by Alyson Rolington (Head of Collection Management) and Christopher Higgins (Registration Manager), as well as working closely with other collection registrars across Tate's specialist practice.

We are encouraging applications from candidates working globally in the field of collection management to undertake a programme of research into the need to embed environmental sustainability in relation to collection management practice. Using Tate's collection as the focus, the research will consider how institutions transport, acquire, lend, borrow, manage and share their collections across institutions and countries.

The Collection Management team is open to a range of approaches to this research, either with specific interest in one of these areas, or a wider interest in sustainability practice for collection management. The Brooks Fellow would work with Collection Management colleagues at Tate and within the UK to consider the opportunities and challenges for registrars and collection management specialists involved in making our practice more sustainable from across the globe.

Through a jointly-developed programme of research, the Fellow will identify a model and would convene and host knowledge exchange activities alongside Tate colleagues and regional peers. The Fellow's international perspective and open enquiry will reveal new possibilities for global practice in collection management.

The Fellow will be based at Tate Britain but will also work with colleagues across other Tate sites.

### Application requirements

To apply for the fellowship in Collection Management, candidates will need to meet the following requirements:

- Recent experience of working within Collection Management or as a registrar within a museum or gallery
- Understanding of international museum collection standards and structures
- Be open to working alongside colleagues in a busy museum environment
- Good working knowledge of English
- Ongoing research and/or practice relevant to the Fellowship theme
- Proven ability and willingness to work collaboratively
- Ability to commit to being in London from 2 April - 15 September 2024.

## Brooks International Fellowship in Tate's Visitor Communications Department

Tate is excited to offer this fully funded Brooks International Fellowship opportunity in Tate's Visitor Communications Department, hosted by Jayne Herringshaw (Senior Visitor Communications Manager) and Renata Smialek (On-Site Communications Production Manager).

For this Fellowship, Tate is interested in candidates working globally with existing research in visitor communications, or a related subject. Candidates should bring their perspectives into dialogue with Tate and Delfina Foundation and will jointly devise and deliver the research programme with the Visitor Communications team.

The Visitor Communications Department uses specialist communications skills and knowledge to enhance and improve the visitor experience across all touchpoints at both London sites, and to champion Tate to visitors and champion visitors within Tate. This includes Tate's public information service, internal communications for all visitor-facing teams and on-site signage and wayfinding. We are responsible for the delivery of visitor communications to our diverse audiences and visitor facing teams at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, ensuring a consistent and high-quality service is provided through accessible, inclusive information and knowledge-sharing.

The Brooks Fellow will conduct research into one of three areas, all of which are focused on visitor communications research. Candidates are invited to respond to one of the three options in their application:

**Option 1:** The use of digital tools in visitor communications

**Option 2:** Onsite provision for international audiences

**Option 3:** Handling visitor communications in the contested public realm (inclusive language, reputational risk and content moderation)

Areas of research across all three options could include: understanding expectations of our audiences; documenting and mapping touch points across visitor communications channels; testing existing and new communication channels; mapping ways to improve access and inclusion; undertaking sector benchmarking and assessing best practice.

For Options 1 and 2, the Fellow would be invited to provide recommendations for potential use of new technology and a new, sustainable business model, evidencing opportunities for reach, revenue and reputation.

The Fellow will be jointly based at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, and will also work with colleagues across other Tate sites.

### Application requirements

- Ongoing research and/or practice relevant to the Fellowship themes
- Recent experience or an active interest in working with communications in a public facing environment
- Understanding of digital developments within the communications sector, including social media platforms

- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to deal effectively and confidently at all levels and ability to work collaboratively
- Be open to working alongside colleagues in a busy museum environment
- Good working knowledge of English
- Ability to commit to being in London from 2 April - 15 September 2024.

## Brooks International Fellowship in Tate Modern Curatorial Division

The Brooks International Fellowship Programme is offering an exciting six-month opportunity for a Fellow to work alongside Nabila Abdel Nabi (Curator, International Art) and other colleagues in Tate Modern's Curatorial Department to explore modernist histories of abstraction across West Asia and North Africa.

Since its founding in 2009, the Middle East and North Africa acquisition committee has enabled Tate to build a significant collection of modern and contemporary art from the West Asia and North Africa. This has enabled us to create new perspectives on the histories of modernism, and to greater and more expansive understandings of twentieth-century production. Through continued research of colleagues and external collaborators, Tate seeks to be a space in which professional exchange and critical frameworks are supported and encouraged.

We are seeking a researcher who will focus on currents of abstract art across West Asia and North Africa from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to contribute to Tate's wider rethinking of abstraction's varied genealogies. They will contribute to writing more inclusive histories on the varied trajectories and transnational exchanges that led artists to develop languages of abstraction over the last century.

During the period of decolonisation in the 1940s-1970s, artists across the region experimented with diverse expressions of abstraction that responded to cultural nationalisms, rapid industrialization, the rise of pan-Arabism and pan-Africanism, mass migrations and exile, as well as increasing transcultural exchanges as many moved around to study across different parts of the region, as well as Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Still often bound up with the word *abstraction* is a notion that has been formed within a particular European and American historical context of pulling away or 'abstracting from' visual representation. There is a continued necessity to challenge existing methodologies and dominant Greenbergian narratives on abstract art's purity and self-referentiality and to relocate interconnected histories of abstraction within their local contexts.

Considerations include: how do we approach abstraction across different contexts, and what modes of analysis do we use? How can we better attend to the multiplicity of artistic, political and ecological problems constellated in modernist expressions? To the various strands of mysticism as well as scientific fields that informed experiments with abstraction across the globe? To artists who fluidly moved across disciplines that today challenge socio-cultural categories of what constitutes "art"?

We welcome candidates who would trace transnational networks and circuits of exchange through:

- The formation of groups and "schools" across the region i.e. the One Dimension, Aouchem, Casablanca Art School, Saqqakhaneh
- Institutional histories like the Slade School of Art
- Key exhibitions and festivals against the backdrop of pan-Arabism, pan-Africanism and other networks of political and cultural resistance
- Engagement with Amazigh visual practices and languages
- Encounters with movements such as Lettrisme, CoBrA, the Bauhaus

The Fellowship presents an opportunity to work closely with Tate curatorial colleagues to support new and ongoing research while contributing to the broader landscape of museum and curatorial

practices. The researcher would be involved in mapping connections between West and South Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

This opportunity would allow the researcher to:

- Host knowledge exchange opportunities and present new approaches
- Develop an understanding of how research operates within the framework of a large-scale museum with multiple departments
- Learn from curatorial specialists and have access to staff members across Tate Modern's Curatorial Division and its International Art team
- Build new professional relationships with colleagues across the museum, offering research and support towards the development of projects
- Contribute research towards Tate's acquisitions
- Build on an ongoing area of research and contribute towards art historical understanding and capacity
- Contribute towards discussions around how histories are shaped and contextualised within the museum.

For this Fellowship, Tate is seeking candidates with demonstrated interest in art from West Asia, North Africa and the diaspora, especially those based on the continent.

Applicants will have experience in related fields of research such as decoloniality in the context of arts and culture, transcultural studies, art and social practices.

### Application requirements

- Demonstrable specific interest and experience related to the Fellowship theme, outlined above
- Ability to shape and convene knowledge exchange activities with networks of peers
- Ongoing research and/or practice relevant to the Fellowship theme
- Be open to working alongside colleagues in a busy museum environment
- Proven ability and willingness to work collaboratively
- Good working knowledge of English
- Ability to commit to being in London from 8 July - 22 December 2024.



## How to Apply

The application process is the same for all three Fellowships, whether they begin in April or July 2024.

To apply:

1. Please complete the **Application Form** found on the **Working at Tate page** for this opportunity.  
*Please ensure that you complete the correct Application Form for the **Collection Management Fellow**, **Visitor Communications Fellow** or **Tate Modern Curatorial Fellow**.*
2. Email your completed form to [international.fellowships@tate.org.uk](mailto:international.fellowships@tate.org.uk) by 5pm GMT, **Thursday 12 October 2023**.

CVs will not be accepted.

## Timetable

### Application process

- **Opening date for applications:** Wednesday 16 August 2023
- **Closing date for applications:** Thursday 12 October 2023, 5pm GMT
- **Shortlisted candidates contacted to be invited for interview:** By Friday 27 October 2023
- **Zoom interviews with shortlisted candidates:** Two stages of interview, to be scheduled for times between Wednesday 1 November and Friday 17 November 2023
- **Successful candidates notified:** By Friday 24 November 2023

### Fellowship dates

- Fellowship period for **Collection Management Fellow** and **Visitor Communications Fellow:** Tuesday 2 April - Sunday 15 September 2024
- Fellowship period for **Tate Modern Curatorial Fellow:** Monday 8 July - Sunday 15 December 2024.

Please direct any queries relating to this opportunity to [international.fellowships@tate.org.uk](mailto:international.fellowships@tate.org.uk)