



## Job description

Job title	Surgo Curator, International Art, South Asia
Department	Tate Modern Division
Contract	Permanent
Salary	£41,000 - £48,000 per annum
Hours	Full-time, 36 hours per week
Location	Tate Modern, Bankside, London
Reporting to	Senior Curator, International Art
Responsible for	Assistant Curators

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

## About the role

Through its exhibitions, collection activity and displays and programmes, Tate continues to strengthen its commitment to deepening and expanding the representation of modern and contemporary art from South Asia and its diaspora. Working closely with a team of curators at Tate Modern, whose focus extends across international contexts, this role will support our ambitions in both collecting and curatorial practice, deepening our understanding of art from the region and its diasporic connections within the UK. The insights and outcomes of this work will inform Tate's exhibition and display programming as well as our acquisitions and collecting strategy for the region. Central to this role will be fostering close and dynamic collaborations with Tate's Hyundai Tate Research Centre: Transnational, curators across Tate, and the wider South Asian art ecology. A key aspect of the role will be to lead our South Asia Acquisition Committee (SAAC) and to maintain good relations with its supporters as well as to engage with artists, galleries, international curators, and related peer institutions. The role will entail working closely with the Director of Tate's Collection, the Director of Curatorial & Chief Curator at Tate Modern, as well as colleagues in Tate's Development Department who oversee Tate's Acquisition Committees and supporters groups. Across all these initiatives, the designated curator will work in alignment with Tate's priorities in relation to audiences, our environmental impact, and staff values.

## About your team

Since Tate Modern opened in 2000, its programme of major temporary exhibitions, collection displays, commissions, live performance, and film programme has developed in diversity, scope and profile. In 2016 Tate Modern opened the Blavatnik Building increasing the scope and breadth of the exhibition and collection displays. The Tate Modern curatorial team ensures the highest standard of content and delivery of this programme.

Tate's collection is at the heart of the institution and all of our activity. Tate holds the UK national collection of British art from 1500 to the present and international modern and contemporary art from 1900 to the present, now comprising more than 75,000 artworks. We preserve our collection for posterity, ensure its effective presentation so that it can be enjoyed for free across our four sites and digital platforms, and share it nationally and internationally through one of the most extensive loans programmes of any museum or gallery in the world.

## What you will gain

Motivated, and skilled people are key to our continued success, and we want everyone at Tate to have the opportunity to develop and thrive. In this team, you will be encouraged to contribute your ideas, realise your potential, and learn new skills and knowledge.

## What you will do (Main Duties and Responsibilities)

### Exhibitions and displays

- Draw upon art historical and curatorial expertise to research, develop and deliver existing and new concepts for distinguished, imaginative and ambitious collection displays and exhibitions which appeal to a broad audience and enhances Tate Modern's reputation for scholarship and quality, and contribute to the programme strategy.
- Lead, co-ordinate and manage project teams, according to the project planning process to ensure efficient and cost-effective delivery of projects.
- Negotiate loans and liaise with artists, collectors, public and private institutions.

- Hold responsibility for establishing and maintaining key schedule dates for every project.
- Hold responsibility for project budgets, drawing up, managing and monitoring accurate and detailed budget estimates.
- Write and edit a variety of informative, accessible and scholarly texts and lead tours and presentations of projects.
- Lead tours and presentations of displays and collection exhibitions.

## Acquisitions and Collections Development

- Working closely with Tate's Director of Collection, as well as Collection Development colleagues, help feed into the acquisition and collecting strategy for modern and contemporary art from South Asia and the region's diaspora.
- Working closely with Tate's Director of Collection to oversee the smooth running of Tate's South Asia Acquisitions Committee (SAAC)
- Draw upon South Asian expertise to research and propose acquisitions and contribute to Tate's collection strategy.
- Work with a designated Assistant Curator on the management of Tate's acquisitions process and to deliver formal Committee meetings and activity, both in London and internationally.
- Negotiate terms and contracts with artists, galleries and owners of artworks; follow internal acquisition procedures; ensure proper and timely liaison and communication with Tate colleagues during the acquisition process, including with Collection Care, and with artists and vendors.
- As part of acquisition process, write informed and accurate texts about acquisition proposals for the Trustees and for funding bodies as well as edit texts produced by assistant curators, in accordance with Tate Style.
- Produce PowerPoint presentations for SAAC meetings to present research and acquisitions proposals.
- Attend and contribute to the bi-weekly International Acquisitions Monitoring Group (IMG)
- Undertake travel across the breadth of the region and internationally related to acquisitions research and in the building and maintaining of networks in the region.
- Maintain and develop an appropriate network of contacts among artists, estates, gallerists, peer museums, collectors, Tate supporters and potential donors, as well as in academia.
- Work with Development colleagues to steward and cultivate Committee supporters through the planning of bespoke activities and trips and help identify and cultivate new prospects.
- Help deliver Development activities, at Tate and internationally, upon request.
- Make presentations within Tate and to external bodies in relation to acquisitions.
- Maintain and develop awareness of art market and current art works valuation

## Hyundai Tate Research Centre: Transnational

- Draw upon art historical and scholarly expertise in South Asian art to carry out research for Tate's areas of strategic priorities.
- Develop research areas that articulate and build on transnational connections to South Asian modern and contemporary art.
- Publish research outcomes on Tate online platforms and in other forms.
- Supervise the work of Tate's Researchers and Fellows where required on a project-basis.
- Contribute to Tate's research activities by convening and participating in its events, collaborating with associated researchers and curators and providing contents for research resource.
- Present research and critical thinking on art historical and museological issues for the benefit of the wider research culture at Tate and beyond through participation in conferences and symposia, published and online material and public debate.
- Work efficiently with Senior Curator, International Art, Hyundai Tate Research Centre: Transnational and Programme Manager to manage Tate's research portfolio.

- Contribute to Tate's Research Strategy and publishing projects to ensure that curatorial expertise is valued, articulated and developed.

### **Management and administration**

- Create a sense of common purpose and direction and an ethos of collaboration within the department, as well as an environment in which learning is valued.
- Work collaboratively in a spirit of inclusive leadership with colleagues across many different departments including Tate Publishing, Development, Marketing and Audiences, Press, Learning, Tate Exchange.
- Foster inter-disciplinary and trans-historical curatorial practice
- Line-manage Assistant Curators and temporary staff as well as supervising contractors as required.
- Undertake Tate advocacy, including attending Tate events where appropriate.
- Participate in recruitment when required.

### **General**

- Forge relationships and links with the South Asian community in the UK encouraging dialogue, participation and collaboration with Tate.
- Give expert advice to external bodies, as required.
- Write project descriptions for, and present to a range of audiences such as Tate Trustees, Tate Modern Council, and funding bodies.
- Provide valuations of works of art, when required.

### **What you will bring to the team**

- Expert knowledge in international modern and contemporary art, with a particular focus on South Asian modern and contemporary art.
- Proven curatorial experience with a track record of devising and delivering exhibitions or projects with imagination and distinction, demonstrating a high level of knowledge and understanding of issues surrounding the presentation of modern and contemporary art within a global museum context.
- A record of publication on South Asian art, or an equivalent body of published work at postgraduate level and experience of participating in conferences, symposia and talks in the context of academia or art museums.
- A high level of knowledge and understanding of issues surrounding collecting modern and contemporary art within a global museum context.
- An established network of contacts in the field of modern and contemporary South Asian art.
- Fluent or near fluent speaker of Hindi or Urdu.
- Impeccable writing and presentation skills in English, including the capacity to write authoritative texts for a specialist readership as well as accessible texts for a general public and to convey presentations to diverse audiences.
- A collaborative approach to team working, including the ability to forge strong relationships with colleagues across the organisation.
- Excellent organisational skills including demonstrable ability to plan and deliver projects on time and to budget.
- Ability and willingness to travel internationally (across South Asia especially) and to attend out of hours functions, as required, to meet Tate's objectives.
- High degree of computer literacy – knowledge of Windows-based applications, able to use word processing, database, spreadsheet, Internet and email applications
- Awareness of, and commitment to the issue of equality and cultural diversity as they affect the work of a major museum.
- An interest in and commitment to the work of Tate.

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.

## Employee 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
- 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/](http://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 **18 February 2026** 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.