



Job description

Job title	Senior Art Handling Technician
Department	Collection Management
Contract	Permanent, Full-time
Salary	£32,674 per annum
Hours	Full-time, 36 hours per week
Location	London and Wiltshire
Reporting to	Lead Art Handling Technician
Responsible for	Art Handling Technicians

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

You will participate in the care of art works and support Tate's programme of exhibitions, displays, loans and acquisitions: including installation/de-installation, handling and packing of art works. This role will lead and focus also on Health and Safety and training for the Art Handling team, based at Tate Store and will be involved in art handling operations across Tate's storage sites (Southwark and Wiltshire).

About your team

The Art Handling team is part of the Collection Care division and comprises three departments: Collection Management, Conservation and Library, Archive & Collections Access. It manages storage facilities and provides access to art works held in storage. Its operations embrace the management and care of Tate's art, archive and library collections and the facilitation of Tate's programmes of acquisitions, exhibitions, displays, loans and international touring.

What you will do (Main Duties and Responsibilities)

- To lead, manage and participate in Art Handling operations, individual exhibitions and other collection projects, and planning the day to day workload of a team of Technicians.
- Lead on Health and Safety for Art Handling operations, including the production and maintenance of up-to-date risk assessments and method statements for Art Handling at Tate Stores and their operations to ensure safe working practices in compliance with Health & Safety requirements.
- To advise on specifications for equipment and be responsible for the care, maintenance and storage of art handling equipment and materials in the Tate Stores. Schedule the regular maintenance checks and update the asset registers accordingly as per Health & Safety regulations.
- Lead on training needs for the Art Handling team and lead formal and informal training sessions on Art Handling techniques and procedures. Ensure that a training programme is in place to keep all staff up-to-date with mandatory, accredited and specialist training.
- To line manage Art Handling Technicians, supervise casual workers and support the development of a versatile and skilled team. To identify ways of giving each Technician challenges that motivate and give opportunities on a wide range of projects.
- To take part in recruitment and team building exercises.
- To provide art handling expertise as a member of selected projects from planning to completion. To find technical solutions to installation problems and advise the Lead art Handling Technicians and Art Handling Manager on risks and achievable schedules.
- To take an active part in Tate's Loan programme, undertaking courier trips (nationally and internationally) when necessary dealing with large, complex and significant collection works and exhibitions.
- Hold responsibility for arranging procurement of art handling materials and equipment (materials and consumables).

What you will bring to the team

- A high level of expertise and significant experience in the handling, installation and care of a variety of complex artworks.
- Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of current H&S legislation and ensure implementation and compliance.

- Experience working on store improvement programmes or collection move projects.
- Ability to identify training needs and lead formal and informal training sessions, including staff induction in departmental procedures.
- Demonstrable supervisory or people management experience - the ability to lead and motivate a team.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to communicate diplomatically and effectively at all levels, to work collaboratively with colleagues across Tate and with external contacts.
- A pragmatic approach to problem solving.
- The ability to work confidently and accurately under pressure, with a flexible and adaptable approach, on a wide range of tasks, often on own initiative.
- Demonstrate a flexible and adaptable approach to rescheduling.
- Experience of creating a working environment that encourages equality, diversity and inclusion, and the ability to create an inclusive, respectful culture within a team.
- Experience acting as courier on international exhibitions.
- Knowledge and experience with collection documentation and management processes.
- Give advice and feed-back to team members and manage performance effectively, liaising with Human Resources as appropriate. Carry out the Annual Performance Review (APR) process for direct reports.
- Proven ability to undertake physical work with collections and to work at heights.
- Previous experience of working with specialist equipment including genie, slinging, forklifts and gantry.
- Willing to work with flexibility between storage locations and work out of hours where required.
- Ensure that Tate's art handling, collection management and conservation standards are maintained relating to documentation, security, collection care and presentation of displays to the public.
- Interest in and commitment to the work of Tate.

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 5 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:

<https://jobsearch.tate.org.uk/> 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 4987. 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 22 September 2026 by midnight. Interviews will be held on the week commencing 20 October 2026.

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.

