



Britton Family Curator at Large, North American Art

About Tate

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.

Our Requirement

We are seeking to engage an experienced curator or scholar with an in-depth knowledge of modern and contemporary art based in North America. While a key member of the Tate Modern division, their primary reporting line will be to the Director of Collection. They will also work closely with curatorial colleagues from across Tate. The post-holder will be expected to source transformational works for the collection that help expand the canon and tell new stories around art. They will play a leading role in the development of Tate's collection through its acquisitions, gifts and bequests. They may also be asked participate in projects, contributing to the presentation and interpretation of artworks at Tate.

Tate has a well-developed and extensive network of contacts internationally (including artists, collectors and arts professionals) and the role requires nurturing and further developing our networks, working closely with colleagues in New York and London. Equally important is the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge internally to maximise institutional understanding and collaboration. The Curator at Large will work closely with Tate curators to deepen its commitment to transnational approaches to modern and contemporary art.

The Role

The Curator at Large will be required to provide the following services:

Collection, Acquisitions & Research

- Reporting directly to the Director of Collection, the Curator at Large will help secure and refine the selection of artworks for acquisition through various funding sources, chiefly our Tate Americas Foundation (TAF) and North American Acquisitions Committee (NAAC).
- Collaborate with the Tate Americas Foundation (TAF) by serving as the curatorial leader of the North American Acquisitions Committee (NAAC), helping cultivate and steward current supporters, and assisting TAF in strengthening and expanding NAAC by introducing new patrons to the Committee.

- Provide strategic leadership on and management of the acquisition of modern and contemporary art from North America.
- Contribute to the formulation of acquisition strategies for modern and contemporary art from North America.
- Conduct in-depth research on aspects of Tate's collection, while also looking to new and transformative areas of collecting. Help Tate establish and extend narratives within the collection concerning art from North America.
- Attend and take a leadership role in two NAAC meetings per year (one in London in October, the other in New York in May).
- Research and write informed and accurate texts about acquisition proposals. This will include liaising and giving advice to colleagues across Tate departments.
- Represent Tate by making presentations of research and critical thinking about the collection outside of Tate.
- Supported by the TAF office, design and deliver important research trips aimed at enhancing our understanding of current collection interests. Steward NAAC on selected trips to art events (for example Frieze New York, Venice Biennale, etc.) and on specific, programmed visits within the US. Assist in the research towards and preparation of all related trips and to give well prepared and informed talks and tours to NAAC members during these visits.

General

- Maintain and develop an appropriate network of contacts among artists, artists' estates, dealers, critics, scholars and curators, to build Tate's network in the region.
- Undertake key studio visits, exhibition visits and archive research.
- Contribute to the Tate's research activities by convening and participating in its events, collaborating with Tate staff, and providing content 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.
- Provide an annual report within two weeks of the end of each year of the contract term and be prepared to share this report as required.
- It is understood that the post-holder may have ongoing independent work. However, Tate's confidentiality and code of practice must be adhered to at all times.

To fulfil this brief, you will need:

- Expert knowledge of international art, with a particular focus on modern and contemporary art of North America.
- Substantial and relevant work experience in an art gallery or museum or with a collection.
- A high level of knowledge and understanding of issues surrounding collecting modern and contemporary art within a global museum context.
- A significant record of publication, or an equivalent body of published work.
- Experience of engaging broad and diverse audiences in art.
- A well-developed visual sense and understanding of issues involved in the display of works of art in a public gallery.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills, with experience of strategic leadership and management and the ability to lead and motivate others.
- Skilled negotiator with aptitude for managing different types of relationships.

- Excellent organisational, planning and administrative skills, with ability to prioritise and coordinate multiple activities to meet deadlines and to budget.
- Experience participating in conferences, symposia and talks in the context of academia or art museums.
- Impeccable research and writing skills in English, including the ability to conduct interviews with artists and access primary sources; the capacity to write authoritative texts for specialist readership and accessible texts for a general public.
- Awareness of, and commitment to the issues of equality and cultural diversity as they affect the work of a major museum and evidence of having incorporated diversity strategies into curatorial practice and programmes.
- An established network of contacts and a knowledge of the current scholarly discourse are essential.
- Demonstrable excellence in verbal communication and presentation and the ability to represent Tate externally.
- Based in North America with an ability and willingness to travel nationally and internationally to meet Tate's objectives.
- Eligibility to work in the US is essential.

Appointment Details

This contract is offered on a three-year fixed term freelance contract. The time spent on the work is flexible and discretionary, however the institution expects the Curator at Large to devote the equivalent to 21.6 hours per week to fulfil their obligations under the contract.

Fee

Circa \$70,000 - \$80,000 per annum, depending on experience, excluding expenses for agreed travel.

Appointment Process

Please submit a personal statement (no more than 500 words) along with a current CV to isabella.pilcher@tate.org.uk by the 1st March 2026.