



Job description

Job title	Lead Art Handling Technician
Department	Collection Care
Contract	Permanent
Salary	£ 39,970 per annum
Hours	Full-time (36 hours per week)
Location	Tate Stores and Wiltshire sites
Reporting to	Art Handling Manager
Responsible for	Art Handling Senior Technicians and 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 hold responsibility for ensuring that quality and expertise is delivered and maintained across the Art Handling team, implementing agreed Collection Care standards and procedures, and ensuring they are understood and followed by all Art Handling staff, across Tate. The post holder will hold areas of programme responsibility for Art Handling and also ensure agreed standards are maintained for object packing, handling, movement, documentation, storage and display and will lead and focus on Health and Safety and training for the Art Handling team, based at Tate Stores (Southwark and Wiltshire) and across Tate's other sites.

About your team

The Lead Technician role sits in the Art Handling team in the Collection Management department. The department is part of the Collection Care division and comprises three departments: Collection Management, Conservation and Library, Archive & Collections Access. Collection Management manages the 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.
- Ensure all technicians are inducted in departmental policies and procedures and have awareness of their task. Help champion the unite approach amongst all Tate sites.
- Lead and provide art handling expertise as a member of selected projects from planning to completion.
- Ability to problem solve and find technical solutions to installation problems and advise the Art Handling Manager and team on risks and achievable schedules.
- Bring fresh thinking and encouraging new ways of working and a collaborative, multi-site approach, leading and supporting change in the team.
- To lead on training needs for the Art Handling team across all London sites, and lead formal and informal training sessions on Art Handling techniques and procedures, ensuring that a training programme is in place to keep all staff up-to-date with mandatory, accredited and specialist training, working closely with the Collection Care administration team.
- Hold responsibility for creating and updating art handling guidelines, manuals, induction and training packs and materials, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, national and international benchmarks and current art handling practice.
- To line manage the Art Handling Senior Technicians and Art Handling Technicians, including permanent and contract staff, 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 and tasks.
- To lead and take part in recruitment and team building exercise.
- Responsible for health and safety for Art Handling operations, including the production, maintenance and sign off of up-to-date risk assessments and method statements for Art

Handling at Tate Stores and their operations and ensure safe working practices in compliance with Health & Safety requirements.

- Order materials and maintain equipment needed for object handling and manage on-site equipment / material stores, undertake health and safety checks of equipment, together with any calibration and certification for safe use of work and lifting equipment.
- To attend and chair meetings and advise on technical aspects of the collections and deputize for the Art Handling Manager, when requested.

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 in a gallery or museum environment.
- Ability to identify training needs and lead formal and informal training sessions, including staff induction in departmental and interdepartmental procedures.
- Demonstrable supervisory or people management experience with the ability to lead and motivate a team. Give advice and feed-back to team members and manage performance effectively, liaising with Human Resources as appropriate. Carry out the Performance Review (PR) process for direct reports.
- 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 and 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 and demonstrate a flexible and adaptable approach to change.
- Experience of creating a working environment that encourages equality, diversity and inclusion, and the ability to create an inclusive, respectful culture within a team.
- Bring fresh thinking and encourage new ways of working and a collaborative, multi-site approach, leading and supporting change in the team.
- Experience acting as courier for artworks internationally.
- Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of current H&S legislation and ensure implementation and compliance. A 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.
- Knowledge and experience with collection documentation and management processes. Strong IT skills include: MS Office/Sketchup, collection management system, etc.
- Commitment to Tate sustainability policy and procedures in Art Handling and reduce Tate's target carbon emissions
- Interest in and commitment to the work of Tate and knowledge of Tate's collection.

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 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:

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 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 Tuesday 19 May 2026 by midnight. Interviews will be held on the week commencing 8 June 2026.

