

# POLICY FOR CARE OF THE COLLECTIONS

on 15 November 2017

~~Date of next review:~~ November 2020

## 1. Introduction

This is a framework policy for collection care, outlining how Tate fulfils its responsibilities under the Museum and Galleries Act 1992, guided by Tate's mission statement and vision.

The policy outlines Collection Care's approach to balancing preservation and access in relation to Tate's collections of art, archive, library and public records, in both physical and digital format. It confirms that Tate will adhere to appropriate national and international guidelines and codes of ethics, whilst clarifying that all decisions will be based on assessment of risk and available resource. It emphasises consistent, high standards of professional judgement in the collective provision of a level of care appropriate to each circumstance.

The policy is underpinned by the nine principles for Collection Care adopted in 2010 and updated in September 2017 (Appendix). Preventive rather than responsive care is a key tenet.

## 2. Strategic approach

Our strategy is a pragmatic, risk-based approach in which our teams evaluate all activities in the context of evidence, impact and resource. Evidence is drawn from: staff knowledge and experience, research and analysis, published literature, context and relevant legislation, and with reference to guidance, professional standards and best practice in the sector.

This approach is applied consistently to achieve care appropriate to each art work or item in Tate's physical and digital collections. In determining what action to take in a specific case, we consider the following factors:

- maintaining the integrity of the art work/item
- risk to the art work/item i.e. potential for change, damage, deterioration or theft

### 3. Description

Tate will :

3.1. preserve the collections through appropriate storage, handling,

collection

- 6.5. document its activities and findings in the field of collection care and provide access to this information.
- 6.6. create and store information about Tate's collections in a consistent way and adhere to relevant national and international standards.

## 7. People and Partnerships

Tate will:

- 7.1. continue to develop the talent, skills and expertise of its staff to improve standards, efficiency and effectiveness in the care of its collections.
- 7.2. undertake, disseminate and apply collaborative research and innovation to the care of its collections, seeking to minimise risk to the works in its care
- 7.3. actively seek and share expertise and knowledge in collection care with colleagues in the wider museum and gallery sector, nationally and internationally
- 7.4. respond to public enquiries in the field of collection care
- 7.5. seek to influence the sector in-line with Tate's policy and practice as appropriate.

## 8. Communication, Monitoring and Review

This policy is available to all

