



## Tate Courier: Principles and guidelines January 2021

In June 2020, due to Covid-19, Tate reviewed its courier principles and practices, carefully considering courier requirements for all incoming loans to our programmes and outgoing loans from the Collection. The pandemic meant there were practical reasons why the movement of people was extremely challenging, consequently we considered and found alternative ways to manage risk to the movement of artworks without the presence of a courier. As we move forward it is clear that challenges remain, however we can reflect that the review of our courier principles brought a vital opportunity to instigate change and successfully adopt a new and innovative way of working.

As we look ahead, we can draw on the shared momentum amongst lending and borrowing institutions nationally and internationally to maintain our commitment to working with virtual couriers. We will draw upon our experience to further refine and enhance our methodologies and put in place working protocols which offer considered risk management for the movement of artworks while providing innovative solutions which encourage sector wide change.

We are confident that these ways of working are robust and importantly provide demonstrable commitment to our environmental policy and Tate's declaration of a climate emergency. The points below detail Tate's agreed approach to couriering artworks for inward and outward loans across all Tate sites and the Collection.

### Core principles

- This guidance applies across the institution to ensure a consistent Tate-wide approach;
- Couriers will be virtual only while COVID-19 restrictions remain. Subsequently a virtual-first approach to courier will be permanently adopted;
- To achieve this, we will offer a combination of increased conversation with lenders and borrowers and enhanced documentation of movement of art objects (images, recorded and live footage);
- This arrangement shall replace the courier condition for a loan where a courier would have traditionally been required, rather than an offer available to all loans; the presumption against a courier remains, including in a virtual form;
- This approach builds relationships and foundations for maintaining this way of working as moving forward we seek to adopt greener approaches;
- Tate will act as advocate for this position and share ways of working with national and international partners to build cohesive methodology.