



Artist-led Schools Workshop Programme, July 2023 Tate Britain. Photo © Tate. Larina Annora Fernandes.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES PROGRAMME  
SEPTEMBER 2022-JULY 2023  
END OF YEAR REPORT  
FOR  
THE LORD LEONARD AND LADY ESTELLE WOLFSON FOUNDATION

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## INTRODUCTION

The unwavering commitment of the Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation to Tate's Learning Programme has ensured the success, security, longevity, and growth of our learning activities for audiences with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND). This is a crucial aspect of our programme in serving one of our core aims, to champion the right to the richness of art for everyone, and to influence thinking about the nature of art and its value to the world. We believe in the positive impact of art for young people's intellectual, social, and emotional wellbeing and that all young people should have access to art and culture.

Through this programme, we prioritise the comfort, ease, and sense of belonging for everyone. Inclusivity is at the core of our mission at Tate. In all aspects of our work, we aim to represent the demographic and cultural diversity of London, and to proactively engage, partner with, and amplify the voices of people and groups who have been and are underrepresented in Tate's galleries and the cultural sector.

Our SEND programme is one of the main ways that we can target audiences and be active in our inclusion of artists and partners with additional needs. This report provides an overview of the difference your funding has made in creating an inclusive place at Tate, including the outcomes of our Schools and Teachers, Artist Workshops, Resources, and Family Programmes, and our plans for the forthcoming year. Your generous support of £20,000 for our programme for the academic year September 2022 – July 2023 was crucial in helping us to achieve this and we hope you enjoy reading about what was made possible through the help of your donation.

## SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

### **Schools Visits**

Between September 2022 and July 2023, Tate welcomed a total of 892 students with additional needs and disabilities in 75 groups of self-led visits to both Tate Modern and Tate Britain. These self-led visits explored both collection displays and exhibitions including Cornelia Parker, Hew Lock and Magdalena Abakanowicz.

### **Teacher Continued Professional Development and Learning (CPDL)**

Nearly 25% of teachers attending our Continued Professional Development and Learning events were from SEND schools. These events were free and open to all teachers working across all settings, including SEND settings and Alternative Provisions. We ran Artist-led Study Days for teachers to learn alongside practicing artists and peers in the gallery with the intention of exploring how art can develop the emotional, intellectual and social wellbeing of students. Through discussion and creative activities, our Study Days supported teachers to:

- Experience how art in Tate's permanent collection can be used to support learning.
- Engage with art to express ideas and experiences, and as a way of fostering empathy.
- Explore how art can create space for open and even difficult conversations.
- Reflect on their own experience of learning in the gallery to consider how to best support the learning and engagement of students.
- Experience and explore art and culture as a significant tool for supporting young people as they navigate the challenges of school and day to day life.

Tate's CPDL champions the importance of process in artistic output, and the value of critical and creative thinking. Through discussion, practical activities, reflection and collaborative working, we are

proud at what we have enabled the teachers within our community to gain and further take to their own classrooms.

In the 2022-23 academic year, our Study Day series was led by artist [Jessica Ashman](#). In the Autumn Term, the CPDL day was open to teachers working with us as part of our research project, Arts Reach, which included teachers working in a local SEND School. The CPDL in the Spring Term was attended by Arts Reach teachers, the Associate Teachers Group, and other networks.

### **Teachers Private View Series**

Our Teachers' Private View series is an after-hours social event designed for teachers to visit Tate exhibitions, take part in creative activities, meet the Schools and Teachers team and collect Tate produced resources to support gallery visits and classroom activity. In June 2023 we held a Teachers' Private View for the Tate Britain re-hang and *Isaac Julien: What Freedom Is to Me*. During the session we worked collaboratively with teachers to develop prototypes of our object based self-led Sensory Resource. Teacher feedback from the event has supported the development of this resource, which will be distributed to school groups with additional needs visiting Tate Britain from the Summer Term 2024.

### **Early Morning Kusama Tours at Tate Modern**

*Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirror Rooms* has proven to be an exhibition of particular interest to neuro-divergent audiences and we were pleased to continue our series of free early morning visits for SEND groups in early 2023. The visits took place between 9.00-10.00 on selected dates and were attended by 47 young people across four groups. This inspired an additionally funded series, [Neurodiversity and Museums Today](#), which included a [Panel Discussion](#) and [Artists in Conversation](#) event.

### **Artist Workshop Programme**

In autumn 2022, we led a series of five artist-run development workshops, which included one SEND school, followed by an artist-led in gallery workshop series that took place four times per week throughout the school term. Relaxed day workshops took place every week for SEND groups and those with additional needs. The workshops were led by practicing artists and were intended to bring young people closer to art and the collection by encouraging them to explore, make noise, and inspire each other, developing the social, emotional, and intellectual learning. All workshops involved elements of making such as movement, performance, sound, sculpture, and mark making with a range of materials. Between September 2022 and July 2023, we welcomed, 17 SEND groups and 173 students to our workshop programme at Tate Modern. We were proud to collaborate with the artists Amani, Davinia-Ann Robinson, Shamica Ruddock, and Rieko Whitfield in the conception and delivery of this programme.

### **Work with Andrew Omoding and Action Space**

Our learning team has been collaborating with the artist Andrew Omoding and the Creative Hub, Supported Studio and Artist Development Agency, [Action Space](#), in a yearlong planning process to revise and develop our relaxed workshops, designed for SEND audiences. The development sessions have been drawing on our learning around inclusive practice to deliver for groups with additional needs in the 2023-2024 academic year. This planning process saw Andrew spend time at both Tate Britain and Tate Modern, getting to know the team and the collection, and shadowing group visits.





Artist-led Schools Workshop Programme, July 2023 Tate Britain. Photo © Tate. Larina Annora Fernandes.

## Resources

### ***I am Curious* Creative Workbook**

[\*I Am Curious\*](#) is a free, creative workbook designed to support school visits to Tate Modern and Tate Britain. The first iteration of the resource was developed in autumn 2022, before being tested in the galleries with five local school groups between March – April 2023. One of the selected groups was a SEND group of 30 students aged 8-11 who took part in testing during their self-led visit. *I Am Curious* presents a series of activities leading participants through the galleries to reflect on their own views, opinions, and understandings to develop a personal connection to the art they encounter. We continue to use this resource throughout our wider learning programmes given the great success and overall usefulness we see with schools and teachers.

### **New Sensory Resource**

A new 3D interactive resource designed by the artist [Rita Evans](#) in collaboration with Tate's Schools and Teachers team is currently in development to support and encourage creativity for young audiences with additional needs. We have commissioned five pieces to be used individually or collaboratively, that are tactile and make noise, with the intention to connect, reflect and contemplate through the comfort of gentle sensory engagement. Some of the working titles include *Rock*, *Wobble* and *Pluck*.

We are pleased to share some of the development images (see below) of our user testing with teachers at the Isaac Julien Teachers Private View, which included 90 teachers on 12 June 2023 and two SEND school groups with 20 students and eight teachers. Tests were also conducted with families at Sunday Socials and Community Private Views in July 2023.



©Tate Teachers Private View, Tate Britain



©Tate Teachers Private View, Tate Britain

## **Publications**

A key publication, *Can It Be About Us?* produced in collaboration with [Southwark Inclusive Learning Service \(SILS\)](#) was published in April 2023. The publication's principal interest was to explore how working with art and artists can create alternative possibilities for young people experiencing multiple exclusions from education and society, and how we, as a team and institution, might learn from working with young people. The publication is available online: [CIBAU-online-1.pdf](#)

## **Families Programmes**

### **Community Private Views – Early Years and Families (July and August 2023)**

Tate delivered four, free morning events at Tate Britain designed for residents Westminster who had not been to Tate Britain before. The events provided an informal and relaxed opportunity for Tate to connect with our local community and develop new and existing relationships with local organisations.

A total of 350 people attended across the four events, invited through 21 organisations working in the borough. Participants were given access to Tate Britain before the galleries were open to the public in a special opportunity to explore the site, engage with world-class art and socialise with their neighbours. Each event included:

- A free, hot breakfast at the Djanogly café.
- An opportunity to engage freely with Tate Britain's new, rehung collection displays.
- A tour of the new rehung collection displays.
- Activities in our dedicated family spaces, Story Space and Play Studio, for children and adults.
- Accessible creative activities and artist-led workshops held at the café and in the galleries.
- Paper-based activities for children and adults.
- A comfort station with nappies and sanitary products.

Attendees included local families, many of whom had not been to Tate Britain before and some who had children with SEND needs, as well as isolated older people supported by carers and support workers, adults experiencing homelessness, and other local community groups. The new sensory resource mentioned above was also tested with audiences during these events.

### **STORY Space**

Story Space is a warm and welcoming space that creates a platform to spotlight books that center children from different backgrounds. Taking place every week in the Manton Studio, Story Space allows children to read, imagine and create their own stories through dress up and drawing activities. As part of the SEND programme, Tate hosted 'Read Aloud' sessions on the first Saturday of every month in 2023 for families to listen to stories and poems from invited Story Space authors, artists, and illustrators. Two of the artists invited to host Read Aloud sessions identified as having a disability, and three of the sessions were BSL interpreted.

### **CLAY Studio**

In April 2023, we launched a new Make Studio at Tate Britain, CLAY Studio, which invited families of all ages and abilities to explore, play and create with clay. With connections to therapeutic play process and play therapy kit, this temporary sensory studio allowed children to squeeze and roll through a lump of clay, molding it into something inspired by the new Tate Britain collection displays.





## Looking Ahead

### **Expanding our Teachers Networks**

As part of our Teachers' Continuing Professional Development programme and our work with teachers' networks, we will be taking a closer look at who is represented in our teacher audience and sending targeted invites to include teachers who work in SEND schools or have access needs themselves. Last reporting year, nearly 25% of teachers attending our CPD events were from SEND schools.

### **A New Sensory Resource Launch at Tate Britain**

The new Sensory Resource testing is complete, with an expected delivery by the end of March 2024, and planned launch in the summer. We are planning to invite Rita Evans, who produced this resource, to lead a session with the Early Years, Families and Front of House teams.

### **Families at Tate Britain**

Our Early Years and Families teams will be further embedding experiential learning, therapeutic and sensory play into our practice this year through several programmes that will be available to all visitors.

### **Play Studio**

Inspired by the art, images and stories in the galleries, Play Studio is informed by the frameworks and materials used by creative play practitioners. It serves as an inclusive, interdisciplinary space where visitors of all abilities can creatively engage with Tate's collection, commissions, and exhibitions. The upcoming redesign for May Half Term 2024 will continue a child-led approach, informed by frameworks of Play Therapy, and will collaborate with emerging artists to integrate contemporary artistic perspectives. The rehang of Tate Britain will be the starting point for what has been conceived as a 'dressing room'. Playfully presented through a creative 'walk-in-wardrobe', visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to experiment with costume, performance, drawing,

collage, photography, and film, inadvertently engaging with themes from within the collection such as feminism, activism, costume, and identity.

### **PAINT Room**

Following the success of CLAY Studio, this summer we will transform the Clore Studio into a Paint Room, inviting families of all ages and abilities to explore the joy and messiness of paint, non-traditional materials, and their possibilities in a dedicated, purpose designed space. With connections to therapeutic play process, 'Paint Room' will be a welcoming, child-led space to explore the varied and infinite possibilities of paint. The Paint Room and the Tate Britain summer programme as a whole, will be launched on a family day. We will work to bring the families programme at Tate Britain out into the open – offering opportunities for families to draw, paint, dress-up and play in the gardens immediately outside Tate Britain.

### **THANK YOU**

On behalf of our audiences and all of us at Tate, thank you for your continued support of Tate's SEND Learning Programme since 2013. You have enabled us to provide an expanded platform for all our audiences to create, question and learn through art making and practice. Your gift has been a vital and critical contribution to the experience of our visitors, facilitating the expansion of our reach, advocacy and campaigning in the interest of serving our audience with nourishing, experiential and joyful encounters. You have helped us in our mission to ensure that all those who enter our spaces feel included and that they have a right to appreciate art, and for this we are so grateful. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate in contacting us.

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