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**BRITISH ART**  
subject specialist  
**NETWORK**

## **Subject Specialist British Art Network**

### **Call for Expressions of Interest: Network Sub Groups 2015/16**

#### **The Background**

Launched in 2012, the British Art Network is a Subject Specialist Network bringing together professionals working with British art, including curators, researchers and academics, reflecting the combined strength of the UK's public collections and curatorial expertise in this field. The network currently includes 308 members representing 152 different higher education institutions, arts and heritage organisations across the UK and internationally.

The aim of the British Art Network is to contribute to the sharing of expertise, research and ideas across cultural organisations; to enable improvements in curatorial skills and collection knowledge; and to foster greater collaboration between partners leading to enriched understanding and enjoyment of British art for audiences across the UK. This is supported through a variety of networking opportunities both on and offline.

Membership to the network is open and free, and includes the following activity:

- An online register of expertise in British art
- An electronic newsletter circulated to members three times a year
- Four thematic and topical research events each year hosted by Tate or partner organisations

In 2015-18 the British Art Network will offer two additional strands of activity to help foster the development of in-depth network relationships and facilitate the sharing of subject specialist expertise between network members:

- A dedicated network group for early career curators
- British Art Network sub groups that explore specific areas of British art and are led by regional network members across the UK

The British Art Network focuses on British art from the sixteenth century to the present day with a broad remit, covering painting, sculpture, installations, graphic art, performance, photography, film etc. Seminar themes are drawn from current research activities, scholarly interests and future exhibition projects across the network and proposed by the network members themselves. Some events offer opportunities to showcase developmental projects from around the network while others address topics of broader public interest. By joining up curatorial and collection research across a wide range of visual arts organisations in the UK, the network fosters an environment where knowledge, skills and ideas, as well as programmes and collections, can be shared.

More information about the British Art Network's activities and events can be found at:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/about/projects/british-art-network>.

## British Art Network Sub Groups: Call for Expressions of Interest

The British Art Network is pleased to announce plans to establish three network sub groups in 2015/16 that focus on specific areas of British art. This initiative is designed to enable network members, who work within specialist subject areas and have relatable research interests, to come together and continue conversations and collaborations around specific topics beyond a one-day network event.

Organisations affiliated with the British Art Network are invited to submit an expression of interest to lead a small-scale sub group on a specific area of British art of their choosing. The proposed topic of the sub group should relate to an area of interest or richness in the lead organisation's own collection, which they would like to explore in greater depth. Membership to the sub groups will be open to professionals who have a relatable research interest or area of specialism. The organisation leading the sub group will have responsibility for defining and building membership, as well as programming and administering activity. Sharing of knowledge and expertise between the sub groups will be encouraged and your work could result in future topics for British Art Network seminars.

### How much funding is available?

The British Art Network has funding to award three UK based organisations £600-£1000 each in order to establish a sub group and support its activities; these could include informal work in progress and knowledge exchange sessions and visits to collections and exhibitions of interest.

### Who can apply?

Expressions of interest are welcomed from current British Art Network members who are in full- or part-time employment at a museum, gallery or university. Each organisation applying must name a lead contact, with responsibility for convening the sub group and administering its activities.

### How to apply?

British Art Network members are invited to submit an expression of interest, briefly outlining their proposal for the sub group and addressing the following points:

- What area of British Art would you like the group to focus on and why?
- What kind of activities would you like to support with the available funding?
- How will the sub group support the development of curatorial knowledge and expertise in your chosen field of British art?
- How will this opportunity benefit your wider organisation?

Please respond to these points in an expression of interest (no more than two A4 sides) and confirm who will act as the lead contact for the sub group on behalf of your organisation. Please send your expression of interest to Helen Woodfield, Network Coordinator for British Art, Tate Britain, Millbank, London, SW1P 4RG or via [Helen.Woodfield@tate.org.uk](mailto:Helen.Woodfield@tate.org.uk), by the **5 June 2015 deadline**.

### Timescale

Deadline for expressions of interest: **5 June 2015**

British Art Network Steering Committee to select successful applicants: **29 June 2015**

Outcomes announced: **week commencing 6 July 2015**