

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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## **Job Description**

**Post:** Collection Care Conservator

**Department:** Arts Council Collection

**Reports To:** Head of Collection Care

**Closing Date:** 23 March 2025

**Salary Range:** Up to £38,000

## **Southbank Centre**

We are Europe's largest arts centre and the UK's fifth most visited attraction, occupying an 11-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. Our focus, as a charity, is to remain innovative, bold and experimental in what we do and to be highly relevant to the artists we want to work with and to the audiences we want to attract as well as to our current and future employees. We remain committed to creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual, entertaining and eye-opening work.

We present work for everyone and we welcome applications from everyone. By attracting people to work for us from a broad range of backgrounds with diverse attitudes, opinions and beliefs, we can continue to look at the world with fresh eyes and find new ways of doing things.

## **About the role and the team:**

Arts Council Collection began when the Arts Council of Great Britain was founded in 1946. It was formed around a small group of paintings from the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (CEMA) and it aimed to promote the appreciation of contemporary art through touring exhibitions. Since 1986 the Arts Council Collection has been managed by the Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England, safeguarding the Collection for future generations. Today, we boast over 8,200 works by close to 2,200 artists including work from a diverse range of artists from Barbara Hepworth, Tracey Emin, Anish Kapoor and Henry Moore to Mona Hatoum, Anthea Hamilton, Lubaina Himid and Grayson Perry. We support artists from a range of backgrounds and disciplines – most often at an early stage of their careers. From multi-part installations to performances, paintings, sculptures and moving images, the works that enter the Collection are representative of the best and most ambitious modern and contemporary British art made in the UK. We continue to bring art to every corner of the country through lending to museums, galleries, schools, hospitals and other public institutions and through learning, projects and touring exhibitions. [www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk](http://www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk)

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The Collection Care Conservator will support the Arts Council Collection's loans and acquisitions programme as well as the delivery of the Arts Council Collection's move from two storage facilities to a new storage facility in Coventry. The post holder will work closely with the wider Arts Council Collection team, responsible for undertaking condition assessments and conservation treatment for artworks in the Arts Council Collection. Working closely with the Technical Manager, Senior Registrar and Head of Collection Care, the Collection Care Conservator will ensure the highest standards of collections care and will be responsible for developing and implementing a prioritised conservation plan.

The role will be based at the Arts Council Collection's site in London, but will be required to travel to the Arts Council Collection's site in North Yorkshire.

## **Main responsibilities:**

- Using a range of specialist techniques, assess the structure and condition of artworks in the Arts Council Collection.
- Advise on conservation priorities and develop a conservation plan for the store move.
- Write condition reports and assessments for artworks as part of the loans, acquisitions and store move activities.
- Plan and carry out conservation treatments in line with the loans, acquisitions and store move activities.
- Share knowledge around collection care and conservation best practices and procedures with colleagues in the wider team.
- Advise, plan and carry out preventative conservation activities as agreed with the rest of the Collection Care Team.
- Ensuring the documentation, photography and treatment of artworks are recorded centrally on Arts Council Collection's Collection Management System and other filing systems.
- Advise on the safe packing, handling, transport and storage of the Collection.
- Organise and deliver conservation input on time and within budget.
- Is able to demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the role that diversity and inclusion play in the activities of the Southbank Centre as a whole and in the work of this particular job.
- Any other duties as reasonably requested by your line manager and or Head of Department.

## **Key Skills that would help you in this role:**

- Professional qualification in conservation or equivalent experience working with a range of media such as works on paper, paintings, sculpture or textiles.
- Significant experience in carrying out condition assessments, writing condition reports and treatment proposals and other conservation documentation.
- Experience treating a wide range of artworks to a high standard.
- Ability to work to a budget, tracking costs and forecasting expenditure.
- Experience of working within a team and working collaboratively with others.

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- Demonstrable IT Skills; particularly with Google Suite, MS Office and collection information management systems.
- Knowledge of the standards and procedures required for the safe movement, storage handling, packing and display of works of art.
- Carbon literate, or an understanding of sustainable practices within museum and collections work.
- Demonstrable organisational and planning skills.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Awareness of Health and Safety issues around conservation work and experience in writing risk assessments.
- Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the role that diversity and inclusion play in the activities of the Southbank Centre as a whole and in the work of this particular job.

*If you feel that your skills and experience do not fully meet the criteria as listed in the Job Description but that you have other relevant skills and experience that would support you in this role, please do apply and note these in your application.*

## **At the Southbank Centre we believe in:**

### **Creating welcoming spaces**

- Because upholding respect, safety and belonging is at the heart of vibrant teams and communities.
- This means us all taking responsibility for shaping and protecting a kind, compassionate and inclusive environment for others.

### **Making wonderful experiences together**

- Because we all contribute to amazing artistic moments at the Southbank Centre.
- This means us all understanding and valuing the different parts we play in creating enjoyment and success.

### **Sparking new thinking**

- Because different views and thought-provoking conversations inspire innovation, learning and growth.
- This means everyone having a desire to learn and being open to evaluating how they think and work.

## **Benefits & Perks:**

As well as working at one of London's most popular and exciting sites the successful candidate will also benefit from the following:

- A min 5% employer's pension contribution (rising to 9% depending on your employee contribution), from day 1 of employment

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- 28 days annual leave, plus bank holidays (pro-rata for part time employees)
- Enhanced sick pay
- Enhanced family leave benefits
- Up to 30% discounts at onsite retail, food and beverage vendors
- Staff ticket offers for Southbank Centre events
- Free entry to Hayward Gallery
- Free/discounted entry with other reciprocal organisations
- Free staff yoga
- Free access to emotional support from a confidential specialist Employee Assistance Programme available 24/7
- Season ticket loan
- Cycle to work scheme