

Hyman Kreitman Reading Rooms  
Tate Britain  
Millbank, London  
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## Tate Library and Archive Collections: Hyman Kreitman Reading Rooms

A generous donation from the Kreitman Foundation has enabled Tate to create facilities for the Library and Archive collections in a single integrated research facility, designed by John Miller and Partners. We are based at Tate Britain, Millbank. Access is available from the Manton entrance in Atterbury Street.

<b>Opening hours</b>	Main Reading Room	Monday – Thursday	10.00 – 17.45
	Archive & Special Collections Reading Room	Monday – Thursday	11.00 – 17.00

<b>Enquiries</b>	Telephone	+44 (0) 20 7887 8838
	Email	reading.rooms@tate.org.uk

### The Collections

Tate Archive comprises the Archive of British Art since 1900 and the Gallery's own institutional records.

The Archive of British Art since 1900 acquires, catalogues, displays and makes accessible for research an unparalleled collection of unpublished and semi published documentation about fine artists in all media, as well as other art-world figures, including commercial galleries and dealers, critics, societies and institutions. The collection includes manuscripts, correspondence, diaries, notebooks, sketchbooks and other artworks, photographs, press-cuttings, some printed ephemera and posters, film and sound recordings, and administrative records. It very selectively collects material relating to earlier British art and twentieth century foreign artists when they relate closely to Tate's collection.

Tate's records of its own activities are covered by the Public Records Act and Tate has delegated responsibility for their management. They document the Gallery's exciting history across the wide range of its activities since 1897, including acquisitions, exhibitions, strategic development and expansion across all its current sites.

The Library broadly reflects the Tate Collections of artworks: historic British painting from the Renaissance to the present; modern international art. The emphasis is on fine art in the Western tradition. The collection does not cover architecture, design, or decorative and applied arts. Film, video, and photography are collected selectively and in the content of fine art practice.

The special strengths of the Library Collections lie in the areas of modern art, exhibition catalogues and artists' bookworks. There are almost 55,000 books in the collection and over 150,000 exhibition catalogues. The Library collection also holds about 2,000 serial titles.

### Using the Hyman Kreitman Reading Rooms

The Tate Library and Archive Collections are reference only but are free to use. You are required to register and our registration procedures can be found at:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/research/researchservices/readingrooms/registration.shtm>

### Facilities

The Hyman Kreitman Reading Rooms comprise of two rooms. The main reading room has twenty four study spaces with reference access to the Library's collection of exhibition catalogues, books and journals. There are computers with Internet access, available to consult the online collection catalogues and other online resources, and a space for using audio-visual material. The archive & specials reading room has eight study spaces with reference access to the unique, unpublished material held in the Library Special Collections, Archive and Public Records. The Collection Catalogues are also available online.

Library Collection: [www.tate.org.uk/research/researchservices/library/catalogue.shtm](http://www.tate.org.uk/research/researchservices/library/catalogue.shtm)

Archive and Public Records: [www.tate.org.uk/research/researchservices/archive/catalogue.shtm](http://www.tate.org.uk/research/researchservices/archive/catalogue.shtm)

There are mains facilities for laptop computers and access to BT Openzone Wi-Fi. However, laptop bags must be left in the Reading Room's lockers.

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There is a coin-operated, black & white photocopier (20p for A4 copies, 40p for A3). You may make your own copies, within the laws of copyright, from most publications in the Library collection. For photocopying, the book platen, which supports the binding against the weight of the book, must be used. Copies from archival material may be ordered and the same charges apply. The photocopying of rare or fragile material is not permitted. Photography (including digital images) is not allowed in the Reading Rooms.

The rooms are climate controlled. You may not find the environment is ideal, either too cold or too warm; please keep this in mind when visiting. We recommend that you take regular breaks from your studies.

## Consulting Material

The Tate Library and Archive Collections are reference only and have to be retrieved from the Stores for consultation. You must request material by filling out request slips for items from the Tate Archive and Gallery Record Collections; items from the Tate Library can be ordered using the Collection Catalogues in the main reading room. Retrieval is every 30 minutes and a maximum of five items per person can be requested each retrieval. The last retrieval is at 4.30PM (Archive); 5.05pm (Library).

You are responsible for any material you have consulted. Material should be handled with care and must not be damaged or defaced in any way. Pencils and laptop computers are the only writing implements permitted in the Reading Rooms. Tracing is strictly forbidden. Sketching or writing materials must not be placed on any items and material must not be marked in any way, including the use of Post-It notes. Paper page markers are available from the Enquiry Desk. Glue, ink, correction fluid, erasers, scissors are not permitted in the Reading Rooms.

A maximum of five Library items is permitted at the main reading room study spaces; only single items or single files are allowed at the archive and specials collections room study spaces. If you wish to use material for a following appointment, a maximum of five items may be held on the reservation shelves for up to one week. Library items on loan to Tate staff are not available for consultation.

You can make requests in advance of your visit; however, you are limited to only two requests. Requests made in advance can be made via email or telephone but must reach the Reading Rooms by 5.00pm the day before your intended visit. We will do our best to make available advance requests but cannot guarantee the item's availability.

Please note that the archive contains primary source material and it may take quite a lot of time to extract the information you require. For example, in order to piece together an event, it may be necessary to read letters and diaries written by a number of people, some of which may comprise of almost illegible handwriting.

## Online Resources

A number of key online databases can be accessed in the Reading Rooms:

- **Wilson's Art Abstracts and Full Text** offers abstracts and indexing (with some full text coverage) of an international array of peer-selected publications.
- **ArtBibliographies Modern** provides full abstracts of journal articles, books, essays, exhibition catalogs, PhD dissertations, and exhibition reviews on all forms of modern and contemporary art, with more than 13,000 new entries being added each year. Entries date back as far as the late 1960s
- **Grove Art online** provides web access to the entire text of The Dictionary of Art, ed. Jane Turner (1996, 34 vols.) and The Oxford Companion to Western Art
- **Dictionary of National Biography** 55,000 biographies of people who shaped the history of the British Isles and beyond
- **JSTOR** a trusted archive of important scholarly journals
- **Oxford Reference Online** brings together language and subject reference works from one of the world's biggest reference publishers into a single cross-searchable resource
- **The Times Digital Archive** every page as published from 200 years of The Times

Access to [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk) is also available, including the collection pages, annual reports and Tate Player access.