

Updated open letter to Tate re. its relationship with Anthony d'Offay, revised from the [original open letter](#) (25 April 2019)

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6 November 2019

Dear Tate,

Earlier this year, we circulated an open letter regarding the resumption of contact between Tate and Anthony d'Offay. This is a new and updated iteration to address the ongoing situation.

The points made in the original version still stand. Tate ignored the ongoing Metropolitan Police investigation into malicious communications from d'Offay, reinstating ties while the allegation was still under investigation. An FOI request submitted by GIRLFORUM* after the publication of the original letter revealed that ties were actually recommenced on 11 January 2019, almost 3 months before it reached the press.

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzZSivhEDOyEWEZudktfX29rcIN2RTVQa0VrVmF6a0RDYm9n/view?usp=sharing>)

In April 2019, the Art Newspaper quoted a spokesman for Tate as saying "No formal investigation ensued and trustees have since resumed contact with Mr D'Offay, and informed relevant stakeholders accordingly." This was incorrect – there was an ongoing police investigation at the time, the existence of which was originally made public by the Observer on 14 January 2018. In Tate's response to our FOI request, the ethics committee minutes in section 3 show that this article was presented to its members as part of the annual review of major donors on 23 February 2018 and 21 February 2019, demonstrating that Tate were well aware of the content of the article.

(<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/13/anthony-doffay-denies-historical-allegations-sexual-harassment>)

As stated in the original letter, we also understand that staff members have raised concerns about Mr d'Offay's conduct in the past. Since the original circulation of this letter, the wider art community's concern over his continued connection with Tate has been very clear to us.

We originally had two questions for the organisation:

Has it carried out an internal investigation into the allegations and into its own conduct?

Has its ethics committee considered the allegations?

Through the FOI request, it has become clear that Tate made no formal investigation beyond an insufficient consideration of the circumstances by the board of trustees and the ethics committee.

We contend that the overlap in the membership of the board of trustees and the ethics committee renders it unfit for purpose. Tate is reviewing its ethics policy in March 2020. We would like to update the demands of the original letter to call for the instatement of an independent and accountable ethics committee at Tate, which is capable of reviewing the morality of Tate's decisions rather than the legality alone.

A text by Tate Neighbour Khulud Benmoussa on the wall of Tate Exchange reads:

“We are committed to building a common language of civic responsibility and selfless actions to care for one another.

We all have some responsibility for the poor treatment of people around us and the hierarchies of power that divide us...In times when thoughts and words are not enough, actions must become our common language”

We ask Tate to embody the values laid out in this text, to cut ties with Mr d’Offay and carry out a full and thorough review of its decision-making structures.

Yours sincerely,

- 1) GIRLFORUM*
- 2) Jane Lawson, artist
- 3) Hettie Judah, writer
- 4) Edward Ball, curator and writer
- 5) Amanprit Sandhu, curator
- 6) Sarah Boulton, artist
- 7) Maxima Smith, artist
- 8) Rebecca James, artist
- 9) Louisa Brown, art worker
- 10) (Dr) Kate Random Love, art historian
- 11) James Harrington, designer and artist
- 12) Annabel Dover, artist
- 13) Dala Nasser, artist
- 14) Dr James Boaden, art historian
- 15) Liv Wynter
- 16) Lou Macnamara
- 17) Raju Rage
- 18) Sophie Chapman
- 19) Paul Purgas, artist

- 20) Erin Hope Francis, Sociology Student
- 21) Zach Harper, Architectural Assistant
- 22) Madeleine Pledge, artist
- 23) Susannah Stark, artist and musician
- 24) Cecile B. Evans, artist
- 25) Yuri Pattison, artist
- 26) Ben Greehy, graphic designer
- 27) Zinzi Minott, artist
- 28) Alice Channer, artist
- 29) Michelle Williams Gamaker, artist
- 30) Fiona McGovern, Gallery Director
- 31) Lynn Murphy, mother of an artist
- 32) Felix Bahret, artist
- 33) Michael Brzezinski, photographer
- 34) Decolonise History of Art and Architecture, University of Cambridge
- 35) Harriet Mena Hill
- 36) Sophy King, artist
- 37) Marie-Anne McQuay
- 38) Eloise Bonneviot
- 39) Alia Rebecca Butt
- 40) Joel Wycherley, artist
- 41) Jade Forbes, artist
- 42) Lara Smithson, artist
- 43) Celia Hempton
- 44) Francis Taylor

- 45) Sam Risley, artist
- 46) Jenny Mellings, artist
- 47) Rachel Knowles, artist
- 48) Ian Nesbitt, artist
- 49) Roy Claire Potter artist and Senior Lecturer Liverpool John Moores University
- 50) Leah Miller-Biot, artist
- 51) Sam Vardy, artist and Senior Lecturer in Architecture, Sheffield Hallam University
- 52) Pete Smithson
- 53) Paula McCloskey, artist researcher
- 54) Season Butler, writer and artist
- 55) Sarah Pledge, art educator and mother of an artist
- 56) Daniella Valz Gen
- 57) Sarah Maple
- 58) Rabz Lansiquot, curator
- 59) Jack Tan, artist
- 60) Madeleine Hodge, Curator
- 61) Benedict Drew, artist
- 62) Vivien Blackett
- 63) Susannah Bolton, artist
- 64) Ruth Beale, artist
- 65) Nicky Deeley, artist
- 66) India Nielsen
- 67) Lucy McKenzie
- 68) Eva Sajovic, artist
- 69) Anna Bunting-Branch
- 70) Nicole Morris

- 71) Julia Vogl, artist
- 72) Katherine Jenkins
- 73) Ro Hardaker
- 74) Adam Smythe
- 75) Hava Carvajal
- 76) Maz Murray
- 77) Georgia Taylor Aguilar, Producer
- 78) Maurice Carlin
- 79) Jennifer Boyd
- 80) Zadie Xa
- 81) Sarah Pickering, artist
- 82) Adam Farah / free.yard (artist / born 'n' raised Londoner)
- 83) Cavan Pledge, Art Teacher
- 84) Ellen Mara De Wachter
- 85) James Bridle, artist and writer
- 86) Louise Ashcroft
- 87) Adham Faramawy
- 88) Xavier de Sousa
- 89) Lu Williams
- 90) Fauziya Johnson, editor
- 91) Dillwyn Smith, artist
- 92) Ayçesu Duran, artist
- 93) Anna Arabindan-Kesson
- 94) Jesse Darling, artist
- 95) Harry Josephine Giles

- 96) Mark Leckey
- 97) Rachel Dobbs, artist & educator
- 98) Victoria Sin
- 99) Phoebe Collings-James
- 100) Jennifer Lewandowski
- 101) Helena Reckitt
- 102) Mariana Reyes Carranza; PhD student at Queen Mary University of London
- 103) Phoebe Collings-James
- 104) Rehana Zaman
- 105) Frances Scott
- 106) Emma Edmondson, artist/ educator
- 107) Evan Ifekoya, artist -healer teacher researcher
- 108) Alexandrina Hemsley
- 109) Karen Di Franco
- 110) Janine Francois, agitator