

Arkivum PERPETUA: Case Study

Tate Gallery - Keeping digital artworks alive and accessible for generations to come

As part of its commitment to widening access to art, Tate launched the Archives and Access project - a prestigious project to digitize 52,000 pieces of new digital assets from the Tate Archive using Arkivum.

Tate is a world class institution that holds the United Kingdom’s national collection of British art from 1500 to the present day, as well as international modern and contemporary art. It comprises a network of four galleries: Tate Britain, Tate Liverpool, Tate St Ives and Tate Modern, as well as a web presence, Tate Online.



Eileen Agar with her husband, Joseph Bard in the 1930s. From the Archives and Access Project. © Tate



Guaranteeing the long term integrity of our digital assets is an absolutely crucial part of the Archives and Access Project - this archival heritage is extremely valuable to Tate's future, and the future of British and international art history. We cannot afford to have them compromised in any way.

Anna Henry, Digital Preservation Manager at Tate



The Challenge

Tate approached Arkivum with the challenge of creating a robust and secure digital archiving solution for the 52,000 pieces of new digital assets it was going to produce as part of the Archives and Access project supported by Heritage Lottery Fund with a grant of £2 million. The solution needed to ensure 100% data integrity and security while offering scalability as Tate’s collection of digital archives and artworks grows.

When you house the largest archive of British art in the world, ensuring that this archival heritage is accessible to national and international online audiences is a huge undertaking.

How could Tate provide long-term access to the digitized archive so as to guarantee that they could be appreciated by future generations?

As part of its commitment to widening access to art, Tate has launched the Archives and Access project - a prestigious project to digitize some 52,000 items and pieces from the Tate Archive. The Archives and Access project brought Tate’s archival material and the art collection together online for the first time.

The amount of the Heritage Lottery Fund that the Archives and Access project is supported by.



Anna Henry, Digital Preservation Manager at Tate, comments: *“Our archive embraces all media, from painting, drawing, sculpture and prints to photography, video and film, and it is a big challenge to ensure that these diverse materials are kept alive and accessible for many years and generations to come. Having really robust storage in place is key to maintaining data integrity and providing public access.”*

Seeking a safe and secure way to store its growing base of digital assets, Tate selected Arkivum as part of a competitive tender process.

The Solution

Using ISO 27001 certified policies and procedures, Arkivum PERPETUA delivers 100% integrity assured, long-term and secure data archiving, that is fully in Tate's control but flexible enough to be fully compliant with its organizational data requirements.

Through the deployment of an 80TB Arkivum solution on-site, Tate benefits from a secure, easy to manage and deploy solution that is fully scalable.

"Arkivum was the ideal solution as it allowed us to take advantage of Arkivum's unique data retention technologies while keeping all of our data on-site," explains Anna Henry. "We didn't have the in-house capacity to configure something like this on our own, and with Arkivum's expertise we were able to ensure that the solution was optimally configured."

"Working with Arkivum has been a really positive experience. The team was very helpful and responsive from the get-go, and worked closely with us to set up the solution to meet both our short- and long-term needs. Arkivum still works with us on a regular basis to monitor and manage the solution."

The number, in thousands, of pieces of new digital assets from the Tate Archive being archived in this project.

52k

The Benefits

Tate has plans to expand the system to house ever-increasing numbers of digital artworks and other digital assets. This made it crucial to find a flexible solution that would be easy to scale up to meet future requirements.

Tate also plans to keep multiple copies of the data, and ensure that they are routinely checked to verify that data was being kept safe and in the correct format.



Letters of Francis Bacon.
From the Archives and Access Project.
© The estate of Francis Bacon



We chose to work with Arkivum because it stood out as being very experienced in the digital archiving space. The team understood our needs really well and we felt confident that Arkivum would be able to deliver a solution that met all our requirements.

Anna Henry, Digital Preservation Manager
at Tate



About Arkivum

Arkivum is the trusted software and service partner for long-term data lifecycle management and digital preservation.

Arkivum provides an end-to-end, managed service to deal with the complexity of preserving your data securely for the long-term, while guaranteeing 100% data integrity and immediate access to your data so that you can bring your archived data to life. Our vendor neutral technology means you can use Arkivum across your existing platforms and various deployment models, and you own your data at all times so there is no data lock-in.

Talk to us

To find out more about our solutions and to start securing your data today and for the future, please contact us on

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