

# ABSTRACT

## Artwork Lead Packing and Storage

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How do you pack an artwork that breaks itself? How do you store live flora in secured conditioned spaces? How future-proof can art packing be? Can art storage be radical?

Tate's collection is full of challenging artworks that test all notions of packing and transporting art: from rocks with live moss growing on them, to fields of mechanical butterflies, to hanging plastic works that lengthen over time. These Artworks have specific individual needs requiring a tailored response that challenges conventional packing and storage methods. This talk presents a selection of recent acquisitions to the Tate collection, considering their lifespan, and projecting future changes that can adapt packing and storage.

These examples will give an idea of the number of Artworks requiring nuanced attention and the range of methods and approaches they elicit. How can packing methods defined by current transit and storage facilities be re-considered? How can the concepts within Artworks transform our approach to packing, storage and transit? How can packing, mounting and storage be flexible to the changing needs of artworks? I will present solutions, questions, and provocations for discussion about the effect that the changing nature of contemporary art is having on how we pack and store artworks.

# BIO

## Demelza Watts

Watts' undergraduate was in Sculpture at Wimbledon College of Art, before taking a Sculpture Masters at the Royal College of Art. Watts has been a Technician and Project Manager specializing in the handling of sculpture and installations for 12 years. Most recently presenting their research at the Icon Conference Metals Group & Dynamic Object Network: Turn Me On! Meeting the demands of moving objects.

Watts has worked on projects internationally; Tino Sehgal at Palais de Tokyo, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov at the Hermitage, Ancient Greeks at the Western Australia Museum and nationally; Nero at the British Museum, Jeremy Deller at Millennium Galleries Sheffield, and various projects across the Tate Galleries including; Maria Bartuszo, Takis, Naum June Paik, Joan Jonas and Jessie Darling.

