

## The 10 Most Important Exhibitions at London's Tate Modern

BY ALEX GREENBERGER

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Tate Modern.

MARA BRANDL/IMAGEBROKER/SHUTTERSTOCK

When **Tate Modern** opened in London in 2000, it was perceived by many as a marker of a seismic shift in the British art scene.

“This is the beginning of something enormous in British art, a re-ordering, a great tempest of cultural energy which will blow apart all the old certainties, all the traditional hierarchy of law and money and God,” artist Antony Gormley told the *Guardian* at the time. Sentiment of the sort would go on to ring more or less true, and Tate Modern is now a major institution in the international art world. With the institution celebrating its 20th anniversary this month, *ARTnews* looked back on the 10 most important shows mounted at Tate Modern over the years.



Work by Benny Andrews in “Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power” at Tate Modern, London.

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### 1. “Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power” (2017)

It would be difficult to overstate the influence of “Soul of a Nation,” which showcased the essential role that art played in shaping the cultural understanding of the Black Power movement during the 1960s and ’70s. The subject has been considered at a number of smaller institutions across America, but rarely ever has it been given such a major platform at such a large international institution. Curated by Mark Godfrey and Zoé Whitley, the show is still traveling around America, and it placed on an *ARTnews* list of the **defining exhibitions of the 2010s**. With an all-star grouping of work by artists such as Frank Bowling, Melvin Edwards, David Hammons, Barbara Jones-Hogu, Wadsworth Jarrell, Betye Saar, “Soul of a Nation” effectively altered art history, bringing to the fore a number of artists who hadn’t been properly canonized until now.