

This summer I was given the opportunity to intern at Christie's. The auction house, though founded in London in 1766, has continued to uphold itself as one of the leading firms in the art market. With their long history in London, the auction house has expanded into 32 different countries, offering auctioning salerooms at just 12 locations. I worked at Christie's leading sales office in New York City where the departments specialize in everything from wine to wristwatches.

With my Christie's ID I was given free admission to many of New York's museums and galleries, giving me numerous opportunities to continue my passion for art outside of work and into some of the world's best institutions of art. Similarly, the interns were given the opportunity to participate in guided tours of museums after work, showing Christie's true care and responsibility for their interns. Christie's also brought in lunch speakers for the interns who worked in various departments, giving us unparalleled insight and networking opportunities.

I was fortunate enough to work, alongside another summer intern, within the Interiors department at Christie's. The other intern and I worked in the department for 12 weeks together and were very compatible. Together, we learned the value and coordination of teamwork, communication, and friendliness. The significance of these values were put in place as we were more diligent in completing assignments, more comfortable in a seemingly intimidating environment, and better at multitasking long-term projects. Overall, this cooperation not only helped us, but also helped the entire department. I truly felt that I was working *with* an affable

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team and greatly benefitted from this alliance.

The department itself specializes in home décor and sells fine art, furniture, and ornamental objects. Such a diverse range of art was highly educational and allowed me to value all types of art, a skill that other interns in more specified departments (such as Jewelry) did not practice. The exposure to such a wide variety was amplified with the Interiors main office being located at their pre- and post-sale headquarters in Long Island City (Queens). The Redstone, as Christie's calls it, is the company's premier North American art warehouse. Having such immediate access to works gave me an introduction to the management and handling aspect to the art market, a side often hidden by the glamour of the sales held at Rockefeller Plaza.

The Interiors department is one of the busiest departments in the summer, which is typically an "off-season" in the world of art auctions. This allowed me to engage in not only the appraisal and retrieval of art, but also the marketing and selling aspect of the market. Tasks included managing and updating the Christie's property system, creating dummy catalogues, sending completed catalogues to potential buyers, consignors, and sellers, and much more. If there was a free moment, I always loved going out into the warehouse and peaking at the fabulous inventory Christie's upholds. When my favorites sold, it helped me form an idea of what is currently selling, how much it can sell for, and what kind of clients buy certain pieces.

The specialists were rarely in the office because of the high frequency of visits to homes, museums, warehouses, etc. I was fortunate enough to go to an estate visit with a specialist. He drove us to the Connecticut property and took us through the home, taking time to explain both the market value and historical significance of pieces. Furthermore, he taught us the identifying traits of certain pieces, such as the difference between a marquis and a bergere, or an authentic work versus a copy. To have such an opportunity as an intern was quite unique and increased my interest in working for Christie's as a full-time career after graduation.

All of Christie's interns were invited to sit in on private auctions. During the week of an Interiors sale, my department worked full-time in Rockefeller Plaza. At first, it was an intimidating place to work—I was accustomed to a more relaxed warehouse environment. However, the teamwork that my department and fellow intern demonstrated gave me the confidence to continue to complete the assigned projects. Tasks included sending e-mails to perspective clients, taking inquiry photos for clients, setting up the lot cards for the sale, and much more. The sales were exciting, but quite busy! This taught me to prioritize and manage high-stress environments.

For a company founded in 1766, I was very impressed by the company's continual development and growth. From the legal department to human resources, strategic partnerships to real estate, Christie's New York holds a wide variety of work opportunities outside of the typical art profession. Originally, this attracted

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me to Christie's because I was not familiar with the business aspect of art. After the completion of this summer, it became clear to me that the art market is a wonderful career option and opportunities for working on the art-oriented side of the market (specializing, appraising, etc.) are still viable careers.