

During the summer of 2011 I was granted the opportunity to intern at the Guarisco Gallery in Washington, D.C. One of the largest private collections in the world, the Guarisco Gallery specializes in nineteenth and twentieth century American and European painting and sculpture and offers over 600 pieces to its clients. The gallery focuses on offering its clients the highest quality and maintaining a reliable, reputable business, and therefore presentation and preparation is a major component in running a successful gallery.

One of my main tasks as an intern was to prepare the packets that the gallery has on file of each and every exhibited painting, sculpture and artist. Although some clients call ahead to arrange an appointment in advance, due to the gallery's location next to the Ritz Carlton Hotel, we never know who may walk in and buy a painting on the spot. In order to be prepared for such unexpected visits, the gallery always has packets that include a biography on the artist, as well as a detail, perspective and full frame shot of each painting or sculpture. Since some of the artists in the gallery are not as well known as their more famous contemporaries, thorough research is necessary in order to put the packets together. I assisted the curator of the gallery by researching artists in the gallery's library, using reliable online sources, but I also visited the National Library of Congress to obtain more information. Therefore detailed research is necessary in order to provide each client with the information needed to show that the piece is of high, reputable quality and to explain to the client why art is an intelligent long-term investment. Many times Laura Guarisco would tell potential buyers that while stocks and bonds may prove uncertain in today's unstable markets, fine art is a secure, long-term investment whose value can only increase.

Other tasks included assisting the curator in performing condition reports, brainstorming with the other gallery workers to rename a piece, personally delivering paintings to the clients' homes, and researching and writing down prices of similar pieces at other galleries in the United States and around the world to help competitively price our pieces.