

Over this past summer (2019) I had the opportunity to intern at Sotheby's in New York City thanks to the support of the History of Art Internship Scholarship. Upon my arrival to the Sotheby's internship program, I was placed in the Proposals Department. As the only intern in this department, I had a hands-on experience in helping to produce proposals that are sent to our international clients. My department acts as a lynchpin between the business development team, specialist teams, and marketing department; this allowed for me to learn about many aspects of Sotheby's business, and how the departments collaborate to win big consignments. While I was an intern, we won numerous big sales for the upcoming fall and spring seasons. My tasks included proof-reading; researching artists, clients, and auction records; and streamlining resources, such as images, case studies, quotes, and more. I assisted in the overall writing, designing, and production of the proposals. The work was incredibly detail-oriented and taught me a lot about business-getting strategy and client relations.

My favorite part of the summer was our internship programming. Every Tuesday we had a speaker series with the Vice Presidents of many different departments. My favorite speaker series was with the Worldwide Head of Restitution who talked to us about both the legal and press concerns of looted art, as well as the ethical concerns. We also learned about client development, the auction process, the art of service, and future career opportunities. On Fridays, we had offsite visits to other businesses and cultural institutions. We visited museums such as the Judd Foundation, The Frick, and The Whitney, where we attended private curator-led tours. My favorite visits were to Paddle8, LaPlaca Cohen, and Kickstarter. These visits were a chance to talk to visual arts professionals and learn about other professional opportunities within a similar field. On top of the intern programming, working at Sotheby's granted me access to interesting events and exhibitions. As a lover of feminist art, I was ecstatic to attend a lecture with one of the founding members of the Guerrilla Girls. It was also amazing to be able to pop-down to our gallery spaces and view works from our contemporary online sales, the Chatsworth exhibition, high-fashion sneakers, and an installation of ArtForum covers.

Overall, interning with Sotheby's was a fantastic experience that taught me a lot about auction houses, as well as other institutions, corporations, and start-ups within the art world. I believe this summer has opened many doors for me, and I am so thankful for the History of Art department and their donor's support!