

Curatorial Intern, Whitney Western Art Museum Job Description

Department: Whitney Western Art Museum

Intern Title: Curatorial Intern

Overview:

This internship provides experience to a student exploring career opportunities in art history. The intern will be introduced to curatorial practices including handling objects; researching the collection; interpretation of our permanent collection; and aspects of special exhibition planning. The intern will have an assigned project to complete during the defined period of the internship, but will also participate in all aspects of the curatorial department for broad exposure to museum functions.

Level of Responsibility: *Reports to Curator and Curatorial Assistant, Whitney Western Art Museum*

The intern will also be expected to interact with other departments regularly, including the library (research), education (interpretation), IT (website), and collections management/conservation (object handling).

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

- Attend and participate in Center internship seminar and other activities
- Work alongside curatorial staff on routine projects or tasks that may come up and be of educational value
- Work on one or more of the specific projects listed below, as it pertains to skill set and professional or academic interests
- Weekly discussion of one to two articles pertaining to related projects, collections care and management, or art news

Social and Digital Media

Preparation and Production

The Whitney Western Art Museum plans to further develop its digital media presence and seeks an intern who has skills and interest in filmmaking and writing for the web. Tasks may include:

- Preparing and editing web, audio, and/or video content
- Filming and editing artist interviews, lectures, and symposia
- Creating new content for the museum's Interactives page (See here: <http://centerofthewest.org/explore/western-art/interactives/>)
- Contributing to the museum's blog and social media outlets

Proficiency in Adobe Premier Pro CS5, WordPress, and Photoshop are highly desired, as is experience with hand-coding HTML/CSS and CAKE. Language translation and experience with Audacity a plus. Proficiency in Excel and Word is necessary. Must be able to work on a Mac.

Exhibition Planning

Albert Bierstadt: Witness to a Changing West

The Whitney Western Art Museum is currently organizing the exhibition *Albert Bierstadt: Witness to a Changing West* to premiere in 2018. Bierstadt (1830–1902) is best known as America's premier western landscape artist. He was also a renowned history painter, a rarely discussed element of his legacy. This major exhibition will address Bierstadt in context of his treatment not just of majestic mountains and lakes but more prominently of bison and American Indians, who he approached as key subjects for his art. Tasks may include:

- Researching Bierstadt and his artwork included in the exhibition
- Helping brainstorm and develop interpretive materials and programs
- Contributing exhibition-related content to the museum's blog and social media outlets

Research and Content Development

Contemporary Artist Research

The Whitney Western Art Museum plans to undertake a major survey of its holdings of modern (post-WWII) and contemporary art. This project may involve the following tasks:

- Conducting traditional art historical and art market research
- Conducting surveys and condition reports in art storage vaults
- Compiling art news in weekly digest for curatorial review
- Requesting of contemporary artists and/or their representatives high-resolution images and image use rights

Gallery Talks

Engaging with museum visitors is a critical function of curatorial departments. The successful candidate would develop a public program around a work of art or theme within the Whitney's permanent collection display. Tasks may include:

- Research on topic of choice pertaining to on-view Whitney collections
- Announcing and delivering a 15–20 minute talk to the public

Qualifications:

- Open to advanced undergraduate or graduate-level students in art history or related field
- Requires general knowledge of art history
- Knowledge of western American history and/or art is helpful
- Previous research experience is helpful
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Strong interpersonal, communication, and writing skills