

## **Nicole M. Nicas Rovner**

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*Seasoned, multi-lingual arts professional with over ten years experience in the museum and auction house environment. A proven track record of independent conceptualization, scholarship, collaboration, and education in the fine and decorative arts fields. Selected accomplishments include:*

- Completed the first English-language study of the important nineteenth century Italian craftsman, Luigi Frullini for the Preservation Society of Newport County, Rhode Island's largest cultural organization.
- Discovered important primary research material related to the eighteenth century furniture trade in London. Secured a private travel grant to complete research on the subject, resulting in additional important contributions to decorative arts and architectural history. Publication of findings on-going.
- Daily exposure to the decorative arts as a specialist at New England's largest auction house, Skinner Auctioneers and Appraisers. Cataloged thousands of objects ranging from a Tiffany & Co. Aesthetic Movement water pitcher to a Madeleine Vionnet silk velvet cape.
- Mounted a highly praised exhibition of an important local artist for the Worcester Art Museum within budget and on an accelerated schedule. Reviewed hundreds of works for the exhibition, completed a thorough study of the artist, provided research material for publication by the Museum, conducted lectures and interviews.
- Instructed students at one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges with emphasis on connoisseurship and object study. Conducted lectures at local museums to encourage observation and assigned projects drawing attention to the works of art on campus, ranging from painting and sculpture to stained glass and furniture.

### **Professional Experience**

#### **Independent Art Historian**

July 2009—present

- Secured private funding from the Tom Ingram and Oliver Ford Trust to conduct research on the development of the Georgian interiors at Heytesbury House, Wiltshire, England. The project originated from the discovery of important primary sources located in the collection of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, Newport, Rhode Island. Research on-going.

#### **Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, Rhode Island**

*Research Associate*

September 2009—April 2012

- Completed research project focused on the decoration of the Renaissance Revival library and dining room executed by Luigi Frullini at Château-sur-Mer, one of the Society's most-visited properties.
- The project resulted in a scholarly article "The Neo-Renaissance Style and the Victorian Interior: the Expression of Identity in the Library at Château-sur-Mer, Newport, Rhode Island" and public lectures at the Newport Symposium (April 2012) and the Furniture History Society Research Seminar at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (February 2014).

#### **Skinner, Inc., Marlborough & Boston, Massachusetts**

*Department Specialist and Internet Auctions Manager*

September 2005—July 2009

- Identified, researched, and cataloged property from the eighteenth to the twentieth century for the largest auction house in New England.
- Provided customer service to consignors and buyers with professionalism and discretion.
- Maintained a consistent schedule of home visits and gallery appointments.
- Developed print and electronic marketing materials or advertising for upcoming auctions.
- Developed operational guidelines and manuals for the introduction of Internet bidding platforms. Trained and managed auction gallery assistants and liaised with third-party software providers. Maintained the accuracy and integrity of the auction process for on-line, absentee, and in-house participants alike.

**College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts**

*Lecturer, Department of Visual Arts History*

September 2004 – May 2006

- Delivered the survey course, covering 500 years of painting and decorative arts. Developed assignments and projects with a particular focus on connoisseurship.
- Prepared syllabi and lectures, organized museum visits, presented material with accuracy and enthusiasm, and guided students on written work and career planning.

**Skinner, Inc., Marlborough & Boston, Massachusetts**

*Assistant, Appraisal Services Department*

September 2003- September 2005

- Customer service role fielding and scheduling potential clients with appropriate specialist departments.
- Prepared legal appraisal documents for use in estate, insurance, or donation situations.
- Required extensive knowledge of decorative arts and antiques, excellent organization skills, and customer service skills.

**Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts**

*Guest Curator*

December 2002 – August 2004

- Researched and organized an exhibition of works by the American painter, Joseph H. Greenwood (1857-1927).
- Coordinated with the Museum's registrars, conservators, education and exhibition staff, as well as outside contractors.
- Liaised with area collectors, selected and identified works for exhibition, synthesized research materials, and published original research pertaining to the exhibition.
- Worked on an accelerated exhibition schedule with demanding deadlines and rigorous agenda.

## **Publications and Lectures**

"Fitting out a Fine Home: Recent Discoveries in the Eighteenth Century London Furniture Trade at Heytesbury House, Wiltshire," (work in progress).

"The Neo-Renaissance Style and the Victorian Interior: the Expression of Identity in the Library at Château-sur-Mer, Newport, Rhode Island."

- The Newport Symposium, Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI, April 2012.
- The Furniture History Society Research Seminar, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, February 2014.

"The Reluctant Impressionist: Joseph H. Greenwood and the New England Landscape", (Essay accompanying the exhibition *Joseph H. Greenwood: An American Impressionist*, Worcester Art Museum, 6 March – 8 August 2004), Worcester: Worcester Art Museum, 2004.

"Joseph H. Greenwood", Lecture to the Bohemian Club of Worcester, Tuckerman Hall, May 2004.

"Messrs. Waller and Sons: a Nineteenth Century Family Firm of Builder Decorators", Sotheby's Institute of Art, London, 2002.

## **Volunteer Experience**

**The Children's Center, Dallas, Texas**

*PINOT Auction Co-Chair*

June 2016 – November 2016

- Organized and executed the most successful fundraiser in the school's sixty-year history.
- Coordinated with over thirty corporate and community donors and various contractors to raise \$30,000 for the small non-profit preschool.

*Other Volunteer Roles:* Carnival Committee, 2014; Room Parent, 2014; PINOT Auction Committee, 2015; Carnival Committee, 2016; Merchandise Committee Chair, 2015; Merchandise Committee Co-Chair, 2016.

**Victor H. Hexter Elementary School, Dallas, Texas**

*PTA Room Representative Coordinator*

June 2016 – June 2017

- Recruited and trained over forty individuals to assist educators with classroom communication and volunteer opportunities.
- Synthesized school information from various platforms into a weekly e-mail for distribution to parents.

**Victor H. Hexter Elementary School, Dallas, Texas**

*Lunchroom Volunteer Coordinator*

January 2017 – June 2017

- Identified a need for volunteers mid-year and presented administrators with a solution.
- Recruited and maintained a schedule of volunteers to assist staff during the lunch period.

*Other Volunteer Roles:* Hexter Early Childhood Community PTA Liaison, 2015-2017; Library/Media Room Volunteer, 2015-2017; Silent Auction Committee, 2016-17; Literacy Tutor, 2017; White Rock Home Tour docent, 2015 and 2016; White Rock Home Tour, property liaison, 2017.

## **Education**

*Masters of Art, Fine and Decorative Arts History with Distinction*

**University of Manchester and Sotheby's Institute of Art, London, England, 2002**

*Bachelor of Arts, Visual Arts History and History*

**College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1998**

## **Language and Computing Skills**

Proficient in Italian and French. Skilled in Microsoft Office products, Mac and PC operating systems, a variety of collection management database software, and various online applications.