

ART HANDLER TRAINING PROGRAM

Along with BCA celebrating 50 years, the Art Handler Training Program (AHTP) steps into its 13th year of training unemployed and underemployed artists and staffs of cultural institutions throughout New York City. It is the only professional training program of its kind in the nation, having trained and placed approximately 180 participants into such noteworthy institutions such as The Museum of Modern Art, The Brooklyn Museum, Norman Rockwell Museum, Society of Illustrators, Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, Wave Hill, Bronx River Art Center, Neuberger Museum of Art, Racine Berkow Associates Inc., Fine Art in Stage, and Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education

The training certifies entry-level professionals who master the preparation, maintenance and movement of fine artwork and other items of historical and cultural significance. Students learn to pack, ship, and catalogue art and artifacts for museums, galleries, auction houses, corporations, shippers and private collectors.

AHTP has expanded its personal development services, preparing graduates to assume higher positions and pursue other entrepreneurial paths. Additional training topics included understanding credit and financial management planning, business plan development for independent contractors and leadership training for crew chiefs.

To date, BCA has an excellent record of training in art handling methods involving the safety, care, handling, packing, installation and transportation of art and artifacts and its Art Handler Training Program remains the pre-eminent program of its kind. The course curriculum is designed to meet the ever-increasing need for knowledgeable and skillful staff equipped and prepared to artfully and skillfully handle works of art including sculpture, works on paper, video media and a multitude of art and artifacts in private and public collections. Learning modules include proper techniques for the movement, care, management, identification and tracking of all types of artworks with focus on installation of site-specific works, exhibit installation and de-installation, gallery layout and floor design.

Looking Forward

The Art Handler Training Program will run its first multi-phase training program that prepares new participants for careers as professional art handlers and introduces trainees to new requirements and upgraded skills for digital practices in the modern Collections Management field. The 2011-2012 Art Handler Training Program plans to graduate art handlers who are fully capable of taking on entry-level positions at galleries, museums, or auction houses, as well as participants from the Collection Management/Digital Imaging Training Program who will be ready for jobs as registrars and collections managers.



Art Handler trainee stretching a canvas on a frame.



Art Handler trainee creating a frame for a canvas.