Careers in Art
for Students of Art History

Prepared by the Department of Art and Art History
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**College or University Professor**
- PhD in Art History
- German, French and other appropriate languages
- Research oriented
- Maximum involvement with people
- Good writing and communication skills essential
- Travel and study abroad may be important depending on field

**Museums: Curatorial**
- PhD in Art History normally expected, depending on the institution
- German, French or other appropriate languages
- Research oriented (may start out as research assistant)
- Some involvement with people, ability to collaborate

**Museums: Education**
- MA in Art History
- Languages may be necessary, e.g. Spanish in order to be able to work with an ethnically diverse audience
- Some research depending on level of audience
- Maximum involvement with people
- Good communication skills essential

**Museums: Exhibition installation**
- BA; MA may be helpful
- No language necessary
- No research
- Some involvement with people
- Some artistic training and mechanical skill

**Museums: Administration**
- BA; MA in Museology and PhD for top positions
- No languages necessary
- No research except for fund-raising
- Some to maximum involvement with people
- Business skills normally useful, including clerical skills

**Museums: Reproductions and Retailing**
- BA
- No languages necessary
- No research except perhaps in legal areas
- Some to maximum involvement with people
- Business, clerical, and communication skills normally necessary
- This area can include everything from working in a museum store, to overseeing the selection, production and marketing of museum reproductions. (If involved with the latter aspect, should have some familiarity with copyright law and artists’ rights, though this could be acquired on the job. Also some design skills may be useful.)

**Art Librarian**
- Usually MA in Art History, and MLS
- French, German, or other languages often necessary
- Some research covering a wide gamut of topics
• Some to maximum involvement with people
• Good communication and writing skills
• Excellent administration/management skills
• Some computer and image technology skills
• Attention to detail

**Visual Resource Materials Librarian (Education and Industry)**
• BA or MA in Art History, MLS becoming more necessary
• French, German, or other languages may be necessary
• Some involvement with people
• Knowledge of computer programs for slide libraries and some familiarity with the issues concerning image digitization
• Knowledge of basic photographic techniques for the production of slides
• Openness to technology and technological change
• Attention to detail

**Publishing**
• BA; MA or PhD useful but not necessary
• Languages often needed
• Research depends on position; copy editor-none; editor-some; writer-a lot
• Significant involvement with people
• Business and/or graphic design skills along with good writing skills are useful or essential depending on position; possibility of freelancing

**Independent Producer: TV and Film Documentaries**
• BA; MA or beyond useful but not necessary
• Languages may be necessary
• Research necessary
• Maximum involvement with people
• Background in TV or film production; good business and writing skills; strong organizational skills

**Architectural Conservation**
• BA; MA or beyond useful with a special knowledge of architectural traditions, including interior design; BA or MA in architecture and specialized training in conservation techniques for work at the highest level.
• Languages only necessary as one is involved with international projects
• Research often necessary
• A great deal of involvement with people
• Depending on whether one is working as a employee of a governmental office, a not-for-profit group, or as a private consultant, knowledge of the law, zoning ordinances, estimating procedures, etc., can be necessary. A certain amount of political savvy also useful particularly if one is attached to a government agency or not-for-profit group.

**Preservation and Conservation**
• MA or beyond in art history with special training in conservation and restoration
• Languages may be useful
• Research oriented
• Some involvement with people
• Good background in chemistry and physics, as well as studio techniques

**Art Gallery and Auction Houses (for profit)**
• BA; MA or PhD may be necessary depending on position and type of gallery
• Languages may be useful
• Depending on position can be research-oriented or not at all
• Maximum involvement with people
• Depending on position good business, marketing, communication and writing skills may be necessary; training in connoisseurship.

**Art Gallery (non-profit)**
• BA; MA or PhD may be helpful, but not necessary
• No languages necessary
• Research may be necessary
• Maximum involvement with people
• Good business, marketing, communication and writing skills; fundraising skills; flexibility; diplomacy; ability to motivate others; sensitivity to artists’ needs; and, depending on the scale of the gallery, experience in exhibition design, curatorial work, sales, and art education can all be useful.

**Corporate Curator**
• BA; MA or PhD may be helpful (Apple Computer advertised in 1992-93 for a curator for their company museum)
• Languages may be necessary depending on the nature of the collection
• Some research
• Some involvement with people
• Ability to communicate particularly with people not necessarily knowledgeable about art; may also need installation and interpretive skills; training in connoisseurship

**Art Investment**
• BA in Art History; BBA and or MBA (may wish to take an MA in Art History, as well)
• No languages necessary
• Some research
• Some involvement with people
• Good business and investment skills; training in connoisseurship; communication skills

**Art Law (Conservation, Restoration, Artists’ Rights, Art and Antiquities Shipping and Insurance, etc.)**
• BA and or MA in Art History JD possibly in Contract law (Columbia University has a Center for Law and the Arts)
• No languages necessary
• Research oriented
• Some involvement with people
• Good business and communication skills

**Governmental Agencies (NEA, NEH, Archives of American Art, state and local art councils, etc.)**
• BA, MA and or PhD can all be appropriate depending on duties
• Languages may be necessary