

Career Services Internship Testimonial



Valeria D'Ambrosio

**JCU Degree Seeking - BA in Art History, Minor in Italian Studies – May 2010
Spazio Officina 468 Art Gallery and Biblioteca Angelica**

Through the efficient assistance of John Cabot's Career Services I had the opportunity - my last semester at JCU - to intern with two exceptional organizations in the city of Rome. I worked in a contemporary art gallery called *Spazio Officina 468*, as assistant to the Director and Curator. During my internship at *Spazio Officina 468*, I helped curate two important shows - both dealing with sculpture: "Judas' Kiss Powered by Durer Group", a solo exhibition which dealt with the theme of betrayal through 12 marble sculptures: 11 of the sculptures were heavy, colorful and delicious cakes, symbols of celebration which yet can also turn into ambiguous, paradoxical and suspect objects. The twelfth sculpture was, instead, a huge, black and threatening submarine meant to symbolise and portray all the betrayals and treasons of the world.

The second exhibit I worked on always for *Spazio Officina 468* was a group exhibit involving 27 artists on the theme of violence against women entitled "STOP All'Abuso sulle Donne!" (*STOP Abuse on Women!*). It was a touring show representing this theme through different media - from painting to sculpture to installation - and with diverse interpretations. It was set up in three institutional spaces around the city: the vernissage was organized at the *Museo delle Mura* on the Ancient Appian Way, it then moved to the *Casa Internazionale delle Donne* (*International House of Women*) in Trastevere, and the finissage was held in the gallery *Spazio Officina 468*.

Thanks to this opportunity, I learned step by step how to set up and manage an exhibition with its many responsibilities, such as: contacting the artists, evaluating their work, finding the right place/s to set up the show, dealing with the issues of private and public fund raising, communicating with galleries and museums, and even dealing with the logistics of moving art work.

My second internship was at *Bibliotheca Angelica*, one the most ancient and beautiful libraries in Europe and the first one to become public in 1604, even before the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan and Oxford's Bodleian Library. As an Art History Major, I worked as an assistant in a special office for the recognition and conservation of antique graphic material. In other words, my job consisted in tracking back images, illustrations, etchings, engravings and drawings among the dusty pages of the many ancient books crowding the shelves of the library. I then had to catalogue them through some of the main criteria of identification which are: the first, second and third person responsible, respectively original author, engraver and the artist who successively transferred the image to the book, and publisher; title, subject, typology, year and place of the publication and then specific notes if present, like number of portraits and geographic maps. Beyond increasing my passion for antique books –most of them dating back to the XVI and XVII centuries – their history and the misteries hiding between the bookshelves of an ancient Bibliotheca, this job helped me gain much knowledge of the various services of a library.

Both of the internships provided me with an excellent springboard for my future career as I am about to start a Masters on the specific disciplines of art curating and art criticism in modern art. I really enjoyed carrying out these tasks, for they have helped me to develop a methodical approach to work, a good organizational ability but, above all, a genuine love for Art. I would sincerely recommend, without any reservation, both of these internship experiences for anyone truly interested in this field.

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