

# Batja Bell

[batja.bell@gmail.com](mailto:batja.bell@gmail.com)  
973.761.4090

*thoughtful care and logistics for art, artifacts and cultural property*

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## Experience:

- Preparation of loans, temporary custody and consignment agreements, exhibition contracts and acquisitions with private and institutional lenders and borrowers, individual artists and their galleries, and artists' and collectors' estates.
- Coordination of exhibitions, outdoor and site-specific installations, and outgoing loans.
- Vetting, booking and supervision of installation, mount-making and packing teams.
- Object handling and packing: soft-packing and retrofitting crates for a variety of transport modes, time-in-transit, and budgets; specifications for more extensive crating jobs.
- Domestic and international logistics for safe art movement, maintaining close working relationships with local and international art packers, shippers, freight forwarders, and customs brokerages.
- Fine arts insurance arrangements.
- Condition reporting of all media, condition photography and related documentation.
- Courier for international, long-haul domestic, and local transport, with 20 years' experience overseeing the movement of art and artifacts by land and air.
- Collections care, curatorial housekeeping, seasonal object rotations, environmental monitoring of storage and exhibitions spaces.
- Recommendations for storage, security protocols, environmental records and pest inspections.
- Physical inventory and digital documentation of collections.
- Preservation re-housing and storage mounts for object and archival collections for improved stability, visibility and accessibility.
- Training and supervision of collections staff, interns, contract preparators and volunteers.
- Guest instructor for graduate Museum Studies programs at Seton Hall University and The George Washington University.

## Employment History

- **Independent Registrar** 2010 - present
  - Institutional clients include:*
  - Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY  
*Contract Exhibition Registrar*
  - Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, Newark, NJ facility and Picturae, Inc.  
*Conservation Technician / Digitization Project Technician / Art Handler*
  - The Ethelbert Cooper Gallery, Hutchins Center for African and African-American Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
*Consulting Exhibitions Registrar*
  - International Center of Photography, New York, NY  
*Contract Exhibition Registrar*
  - New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY  
*Contract Exhibition Registrar*
  - American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY  
*Contract Assistant Registrar for Exhibitions and Loans*
  - New-York Historical Society, New York, NY  
*Contract Registrar for Exhibitions and Outgoing Loans*
  - Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University  
*Exhibition Registrar and Installation Coordinator*
  - Rubin Museum of Art, New York, NY  
*Contract Exhibition Registrar*
  
- **Associate Registrar for Exhibitions and Collections  
and Collections Imaging/Rights & Reproductions Coordinator** 2013 - 2014  
National Academy Museum, New York, NY
  
- **Inventory Technician** 2012  
Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, Newark, NJ facility
  
- **Associate Registrar: Exhibitions, Shipping Coordination and Operations** 2001 – 2010  
Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
  
- **Museum Specialist: Registration Services/Objects Processing** 1989 – 2001  
National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

## Education & Professional Training

- M. A. in Museum Studies, The George Washington University, Washington, DC  
*Professional core: Collections Management; Academic core: Anthropology and American Studies  
Supplementary coursework in Preventative Object Conservation and in Museum Law*
  
- B. Sci. in Environmental Design: Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA

## Other Skills and Affiliations:

- Use of TMS, Past Perfect, Argus, Excel and Access to manage collections, exhibition and loan records.
- Former Treasurer, Registrars Committee, American Association of Museums, 2011- 2012 term.
- Member: Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists; New Jersey Association of Museums; Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums; Alliance for Response NYC; New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response
- Reading and conversation skills in French, Spanish, Hebrew, and Greek.

**References and project list available on request.**